



G. Kneller del.

W. P. Carey sculp.

DUCHESS of KINGSTON.  
*as she appeared at the Venetian Ambassador's  
Ball in Somerset House.*



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THE  
LIFE AND MEMOIRS  
OF  
*Hervey K.*  
(ELIZABETH) CHUDLEIGH,

AFTERWARDS

Mrs. HERVEY, and COUNTESS of BRISTOL,

COMMONLY CALLED

DUCHESS OF KINGTSON.

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Printed for Messrs. H. CHAMBERLAINE, G. BURNET,  
L. WHITE, P. BYRNE, H. COLBERT, and  
J. HALPEN.

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MDCCLXXXIX.

THE

LIFE OF MEMOIRS

OF

FRANCIS CLAUDIO

AND

MRS. CLAUDIO

BY



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OF

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*Prefatory Observations.*

**T** H E demise of the DUCHESS OF KINGSTON being authenticated in England, the public prints contained various anecdotes respecting that lady, which were either wholly conjectural, or partially untrue.

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Observing

Observing this, the Author  
 of the following DETAIL  
 transmitted to the press some  
 particulars, which he knew to  
 be facts ; intending them only  
 as contributing, for a time,  
 to diurnal amusement. He  
 was solicited, however, to  
 collect, and print them, in  
 a different form ; with a con-  
 tinuation, and such anecdotes  
 as he could furnish from au-  
 thenticity. The publication,  
 in this shape, is now submit-  
 ted



ted to the world---The time necessary to obtain, and bring from Paris, an attested copy of the WILL of the Duchess, is humbly offered as an apology ; and its being so truly an original, will, it is hoped, abundantly atone for the procrastination.

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 necessary to obtain, and bring  
 from Paris, an attested copy  
 of the WILL of the Duke, is  
 is promptly offered as an apo-  
 logy; and its being so truly  
 an original, will, it is hoped,  
 abundantly atone for the pro-  
 crastination.

# MEMOIRS,

&c. &c.

AS the death of those who have eminently figured on the stage of Being, always occasion posthumous animadversion, the demise of so extraordinary a character as the late DUCHESS of KINGSTON will, there is not a doubt, give rise to a variety of details respecting her life and conduct.

B

This

This is an age when the prying eye of curiosity penetrates the privacy of every distinguished person ; neither the living nor the dead escape. The most trivial pursuits of the one, and the former table-talk of the other, are narrated, with all the pomp of importance, by some officious hand, engaged to furnish anecdote for the world. The author of the subsequent account professeth a departure from the customary mode of detailing puerilities of thought, expression, or habit. Such puerilities are but too prevalent, even where intellectual greatness most abounds ; and it surely is becoming the office of candour to veil, rather than exemplify, the weaknesses of our nature.

ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH was well descended, from an ancient family, situated in Devonshire. One of her male ancestors had a naval command in the reign of Queen Elizabeth,



Elizabeth, and gallantly acquitted himself in the memorable defeat of the Spanish Armada. She was born in the year 1720, and her father was a Colonel in the army, and had a post in Chelsea college; but, dying when she was at an early age, his relict had the care of a daughter devolved on her, with little more than the usual pension allotted the widow of an officer, for their mutual subsistence. Thus narrowed in fortune, Mrs. Chudleigh prudently availed herself of the best substitute for money—good connections. These the rank, situation, and habits of her husband, had placed within her power. She hired an house fit, at that less refined period of time, for a fashionable town residence; and she accommodated an inmate, for the purpose of adding to the scantiness of her income. Her daughter ELIZABETH was soon distinguished for a brilliancy of repartee, and

for other qualities highly recommendatory, because extremely pleasing. An opportunity for the display of them, to every advantage the possessor could reasonably desire, offered at a moment when fortune was benignantly disposed. The father of our present Sovereign had his court at Leicester House. Mr. PULTENEY, who then blazed as a meteor in the hemisphere of opposition was honoured with the particular regard of the Prince of Wales. Miss CHUDLEIGH was introduced to Mr. PULTENEY; and he obtained her, at the age of about eighteen, the appointment of a Maid of Honour to the Princess of Wales. Mr. Pulteney did more than thus place her in an elevated station; he endeavoured to cultivate her understanding. To him Miss CHUDLEIGH read; and with him, when separated by distance, she literally corresponded. Some improvement

she

she obtained by this advantage, but the extreme vivacity of her nature prevented any considerable acquirements. Her maxim, on every subject, was, according to her own expression, to be “short, clear, and surprising.” A voluminous author was, consequently, her aversion; and a prolix story, however interesting, disgusted her, merely from the circumstance of prolixity. With such a pupil, Mr. PULTENEY could laugh, and, in despair of his literary instruction making any deep impression on the mind of his adopted fair one, he changed the scene, and endeavoured to initiate her in the science of œconomy, instead of books. The value of a penny he had studied to a nicety; one of his practical theorems was, that a man with the price of a pot of porter in his pocket, should purchase only a pint, however extreme his thirst. This was the GREAT WILLIAM PULTENEY,



PULTENEY, who, like other patriots, without principle, degenerated into a Peer, without honour, and died without the vestige of regard for his memory being found in any breast that existed at the time of his departure.

The station to which Miss CHUDLEIGH was advanced, combined with many personal attractions, produced a number of admirers ; some of actual, others of expectant titles. Among the former, was his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, whom Miss Gunning had afterwards the good fortune to obtain for a consort. The Duke was passionately fond of Miss CHUDLEIGH, and the ardour with which he pressed his suit attained the end he then wished to accomplish, which was, a solemn engagement on the part of Miss CHUDLEIGH, that on his return from making a tour, for which he  
was



was preparing, she would become his wife. There were reasons why this event should not immediately take place; that the engagement would be fulfilled at the specified time, both parties considered as a moral certainty. A mutual pledge was given and accepted; the Duke commenced his proposed tour, and the parting condition was, that he should write by every opportunity. Miss CHUDLEIGH, of course, was reciprocally bounden to answer his Grace's Ovidian epistles. Thus the arrangement of fortune seemed to have united a pair, who possibly might have experienced much happiness in the union; for between the Duke of Hamilton and Miss Chudleigh, there was a similarity of disposition. They were not, however, to be joined. Distrust was to take place of unbounded confidence; and they were mutually to be dissatisfied with each other, without either being culpable.

Miss

Miss Chudleigh had an aunt whose name was Hanmer; at her house Captain Hervey, the late Earl of Bristol, visited. To this gentleman Mrs. Hanmer became so exceedingly partial, that she favoured his views on her niece, and engaged her efforts to effect, if possible, a matrimonial connection. There were two difficulties which would have been insurmountable, if not opposed by the fertile genius of a female. Miss Chudleigh disliked Captain Hervey, and she was betrothed to the Duke of Hamilton. To render the last nugatory, the letters of his Grace were intercepted by Mrs. Hanmer, and his supposed silence giving offence to her niece, she worked so successfully on her pride, as to induce her to abandon all thoughts of the lover, whose passion she had cherished with delight. A conduct the reverse of that imputed to the Duke, was observed by Captain Hervey.

He

He was all which assiduity could dictate, or attention perform. He had daily access to Miss Chudleigh, and each interview was artfully improved by the aunt, to the promotion of her own views. The letters of his Grace of Hamilton, which regularly arrived, were as regularly suppressed; until piqued beyond longer endurance, Miss Chudleigh was prevailed on to accept the hand of Captain Hervey, and, by a private marriage, to ensure a participation of his future honours and fortune. The ceremony was performed in a private chapel adjoining the country mansion of Mr. Merrill. The only surviving witness is a woman considerably advanced in years, who was a servant in the family\*.

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On

\* This marriage was solemnized in the year 1744, at Lainston, in the county of Southampton; a parish in which there was only the house of Mr. Merrill. The certificate runs as follows:

“ Marriages,



On a review of life, every reflecting mind may easily trace the predominant good, or evil experienced, to some wilful error, or injudicious mistake, which operated as a determinate cause, and gave the colour to our fate. This was the case with Miss Chudleigh; for, the hour in which she became united with Captain Hervey, proved to her the origin of every subsequent unhappiness. There is a compliment to the dead, exacted by usage; conformably to which, we treat their names with reverence, whose deeds deserve the severest reproach. On this principle it can only be said, that

“ Marriages, Births, and Burials, in the parish of  
 “ Lainston. 2d of August, Mrs. Susanna Merrill, relict  
 “ of John Merrill, Esq. buried. 4th of August, 1744,  
 “ married, the Honourable Augustus Hervey, Esquire,  
 “ in the parish of Lainston, to *Miss Elizabeth Chudleigh*,  
 “ daughter of *Colonel Thomas Chudleigh*, late of *Chelsea*  
 “ College, deceased. By me, *Thomas Arnis*.”



the connubial rites were attended with consequences, injurious to health, as well as unproductive of fecundity; and that, from the night following the day on which the marriage was solemnized, Miss Chudleigh resolved never to have farther connection with her husband. To prevail on him not to claim her as his wife, required all the art of which she was mistress. The best dissuasive argument was, the loss of her situation as Maid of Honour, should the marriage be publicly known. The finances of Captain Hervey not enabling him, at the time, to compensate such a loss, most probably operated as a prudential motive for his yielding to the entreaties of his wife. He did so yield; but in a manner which, at times, indicated a strong desire to play the tyrant. In fact, as the departed DUCHESS frequently expressed  
the

the situation of her feelings, " Her misery  
 " commenced from the arrival of Captain  
 " Hervey in England, and the greatest  
 " joy she experienced was the intelligence  
 " of his departure." Hence, whilst the  
 ship in which he was to sail, remained  
 at Spithead, or in the Downs, she was  
 tremblingly alive with apprehension that  
 the destination might be countermanded.  
 A fair wind out of the Channel, was the  
 soother of her mind; and she was always  
 extremely inquisitive as to the duration  
 of the voyage, or cruize; as well as the  
 probable intervening accidents which might  
 still longer retard it. Such were some of  
 the immediate consequences of an union,  
 brought about by artifice, effected clandestinely,  
 and originating, in the one party,  
 from pique, in the other, from a more reprehensible  
 passion. The remote consequences of  
 this

this most unfortunate assimilation of body, nor mind, will necessarily appear in the subsequent detail. Let it be hoped, for the happiness of the more amiable sex, that the case of Miss Chudleigh, in one sense, is not applicable to many of them. To her, matrimony was the beginning of sorrows.

Miss CHUDLEIGH, now Mrs. HERVEY, a maid in appearance, a wife in disguise, seemed to those who judge from externals only, to be in an enviable situation. Of the higher circles she was the attractive center; of gayer life the invigorating spirit. Her royal mistress not only smiled on, but approved her. A few friendships she cemented, and conquests she made in such abundance, that, like Cæsar in a triumph she had a train of captives at her heels. Yet, with all this display of happiness, she wanted that, without which there is not happiness



pinefs on earth—peace of mind. Her husband, quieted for a time, grew obftreperous as ſhe became more the object of admiration. He felt his right, and was determined to aſſert it. She endeavoured, by letter, to negotiate him into peace; but her efforts ſucceeded not. He demanded a private interview; and enforcing his demands by threats of expoſure in caſe of refusal, ſhe complied through compulſion. The meeting was at the apartment of Captain Hervey; a black fervant only in the houſe. On entering the room where he ſat, the firſt thing done was to prevent her retreat by locking the door. What paſſed may be better imagined than expreſſed. The boſom of a wife, burning with indignant rage for paſt injuries ſuſtained in her health, yet obliged to ſmother the flame of reſentment, and aſſume the mildneſs of complacency. On the other hand, an huſband, feeling

himſelf



himself the Lord Paramount over a defenceless woman, whose hopes he had blasted, whose person he had defiled. This, as the Dutchess, when speaking of it, with tears in her eyes, used to say, was "an assignation with a vengeance." It ended, like every interview which she had with Captain Hervey, fatally for her. He would not permit her to retire without consenting to that commerce, delectable only when kindred souls melt into each other with the soft embrace. The fruit of this meeting was, the addition of a boy to the human race. Caesar Hawkins became the professional confidant on this occasion. Miss Chudleigh removed to Chelsea for a change of air, and returned to Leicester-house, perfectly recovered from her indisposition. The infant soon sunk into the arms of Death, leaving only

only the tale of his existence to be related\*.

While these and a variety of other circumstances were passing between Miss

\* The following is the evidence which *Cesar Hawkins* gave, on the Trial of the Duchess of Kingston, relative to the birth of the child, and the marriage of *Miss Chudleigh* with *Mr. Hervey*.

*Question.* Do you, or do you not, know, that a child was the fruit of that marriage?

*Cesar Hawkins.* Yes, I do.

*Question.* Can you tell their Lordships about what time the child was born, and where?

*Answer.* About the time I cannot tell.

*Question.* Inform their Lordships about what time this might be?

*Answer.* I should suppose about thirty years ago.

*Question.* Where was this child born?

*Answer.* At Chelsea, near to Chelsea College.

*Question.* Was this marriage (with Mr. Hervey) and the birth of that child, at that time kept a secret?

*Answer.* I was told so.

*Question.* Do you know what is since become of that child?

*Answer.* I believe it died a little time afterwards.

Chudleigh

Chudleigh and her husband, the Duke of Hamilton arrived from his travels. He lost not a moment in paying homage to the idol of his affections, and in having the mystery of all his letters being unanswered, explained. Flighty, as in other respects he was, to Miss Chudleigh his constancy remained unshaken. The interview developed the whole, and placed Mrs. Hammer in her true light, that of the authoress of mischief. But as the palliation of past evil, the Duke made a generous tender of his hand, where his heart was already centered. The rejection of this offer, which it was impossible to accept, and almost as impossible to explain the reason why it was rejected, occasioned emotions in the Duke, which the heart can feel better than the pen explain. Still more; Miss Chudleigh was compelled to prohibit his visits. The sequel of his conduct is known. His Grace and  
a noble

a noble Earl agreed to club their follies, to keep each other in countenance, and they both married two Hibernian Misses, who, in the hour of good fortune, had luckily brought their stock in trade to a market, where beauty frequently fetches an excellent price.

The Duke of Hamilton, thus refused by Miss Chudleigh; the late Duke of Ancaster, and several other nobles experienced a similar fate. This astonished the fashionable world, and the mother of Miss Chudleigh, who was a total stranger to the private marriage of her daughter, reprehended her folly in proper terms. At once to be freed, at least for a time, from the embarrassments which environed her, Miss Chudleigh determined on travel as the mean. She embarked for the Continent. Chose the circle of Germany for her tour.

She



She resided some time at Berlin, then went to Dresden; and, as she aspired to the acquaintance of crowned heads, she was gratified by the late King of Prussia, who not only conversed, but corresponded with her. It is not by this meant that there was any thing more in his letters than what the politeness of a gentleman dictated to a lady, in spirit and enterprize above the level of her sex. The epistles of Frederic, which consisted of about four lines, written in a scarcely legible hand, served Miss Chudleigh to gratify her vanity by talking about. But, in the Electress of Saxony she found a friend, whose affection for her continued to the latest period of life. The Electress was a woman of sense, honour, virtue and religion. Her letters were replete with kindness. While her hand distributed presents to Miss Chudleigh out of the treasury of abundance, her heart

heart was interested for her happiness. This she evinced, pending the prosecution for bigamy, for at that time a letter from the Electress to the Duchess, contained the following passage:—" You have long experienced my love; my revenue, my protection; my every thing you may command. Come, then, my dear life, to an asylum of peace. Quit a country, where, if you are bequeathed a cloak, some pretender may start up, and ruin you by law to prove it your property. Let me have you at Dresden." This passage is literally rendered from the French.

Miss Chudleigh returning from the Continent, Lord Howe, who signalized himself in America the war before last, became her suitor. Matrimony was out of the question; but, an intimacy subsisting, the world then talked, as the world now talks, a great

a great deal of nonsense in a most absurd style. This garrulity, however, neither lessened the consequence of Miss Chudleigh, nor interrupted her amusements. She ran the career of pleasure, enlivened the Court circles, each year became more ingratiated with the mistress whom she served; led fashions; played whist with Lord Chesterfield; rioted with Lady Harrington and Miss Ashe; figured at a masquerade, and laughed at the lover whom she chose not to favour with her smiles, with all the confounding grace of a woman of quality. The reflection put off, however, for the day, too frequently intruded an unwelcome visitor at night. Captain Hervey, the husband, like a perturbed spirit, was eternally crossing the path trodden by his wife. Was she in the rooms at Bath; he was sure to be there. At a rout, ridotto, or ball, there was this fell destroyer of peace,



peace, embittering every pleasure, and blighting the fruit of happiness by the pestilential malignancy of his presence. As a proof of his disposition to annoy, he menaced his wife with an intimation that he would disclose the marriage to the Princess of Wales. In this Miss Chudleigh anticipated him, by being the first relater of the circumstance. Her royal mistress heard and pitied her. She continued her patronage to the hour of her death. At last a stratagem was either suggested, or it occurred to Miss Chudleigh, at once to deprive Captain Hervey of the power to claim her as his wife. The clergyman who married them was dead. The register book was in careless hands. An handsome compliment was paid for the inspection, and, while the person in whose custody it was, listened to an amusing story, Miss Chudleigh tore out a part of the register. Thus imagining the  
business



business accomplished, she, for a time, bid defiance to her husband, whose taste for the softer sex yielding to a passion of an opposite nature, occasioned Miss Chudleigh a cessation of inquietude. Her better fate influenced the heart of a man in her favour, who was the exemplar of amiability. This was the late Duke of Kingston.

The life, an outline of which is now submitting to the public judgment, was of such a singular commixture of propensities, as to afford abundant matter for improving reflection. That there is in the human breast a ruling passion, by which the will is influenced, and consequently the judgment finally determined, must be evident to every inquisitive mind. This passion it is, which, serving as the spring of action, gives rise to a conduct perfectly regular, or wholly eccentric, as the producing cause is more

or

or less bounded by some higher motive. Hence the necessity there is for some super-induced principle, as a check to the ruling passion, whatever it be. Where this is wanting, all is confusion; errors engender substantial ills, and that portion of our existence contracted within the narrow span of time, is doomed to unhappiness.

The subject of these anecdotes was among the too many eminent instances of this. Settled principles she had none. Not that her deficiency arose so much from viciousness, as from ignorance. Her mind, to borrow Mr. Locke's figure, was a mere *tabula rasa*, a blank as to every thing beyond mortality. All with her centered in self and sensation. Her ruling passion was displayed in the acquirement of any species of property, the possession of which gratified vanity. This she hoarded with the gripe

gripe of a miser, or dissipated with the profusion of a spendthrift, when flattered by knavery or artifice into a mood of extravagance. The diamonds she had amassed were her travelling companions; and she was always ready to defend them, with a brace of pistols, at the hazard of her life. To her jewel box her orisons were as regularly paid, as a devotee is found constant to her matins. She latterly flumbered over abundance, nor was she ever awake to that glorious feeling with actuates natures truly noble, and teaches them to consider a superflux of wealth as the donation of heaven, granted in trust for the relief of indigence, the soothing of calamity, or the reward of merit. That the late Duchess of Kingston had early in life the power of being the distributor of much good, is certain; to obtain the means was her principal object, to neglect the end, her general habit. Her

C

cunning,



cunning, for of wisdom she possessed not a ray, was solely directed to gain. Fortunately for society, cunning is more frequently defeated than successful. This was so remarkably experienced by our heroine, that a relation of the case may serve as a moral lesson to the world—Thus, then, runs the story:

In the natural course of events, Captain Hervey succeeded to the Earldom of Bristol. With rank there was fortune, and both were most inviting objects to a mind fordid and vain. When a succession to the family honours and revenue became highly probable, a short period before it took place, Miss Chudleigh went to the house of Mr. Merrill, in whose chapel she was married. Her ostensible reason was a jaunt out of town—Her real design was to procure, if possible, the insertion of her marriage with  
 Captain



Captain Hervey in the book which, to destroy the written evidence of that marriage, she had formerly mutilated. With this view she condescended to every artifice, and dealt out promises with a liberal hand. The officiating clerk, who like Scrub, in the play, was a person of various avocations, was to be promoted to the extent of his wishes. The book was managed by the Lady to her content, and she returned to London, secretly exulting in the excellence and success of her machination. She did, it is true, succeed, but it was in laying the ground-work of that very evidence, which, in conjunction with oral testimony, operated afterwards to her conviction and disgrace. Here was cunning, despicable cunning, enveloping the possessor in a net of her own fabricating. No wonder; when her hour of degradation arrived, that she fell unpitied.

Thus conditioned was Miss CHUDLEIGH, when the DUKE of KINGSTON became her admirer. Re-married, as it were, by her own stratagem, the participation of ducal honours became legally impossible. The chains of wedlock, which the lady had been so industrious in shaking off, or putting on, as seemed most promotive of her avarice, were now galling to an excess. Every advice was taken, without the means of liberation being in the power of human device to suggest. To acquiesce in that which could not be remedied, seemed the dernier resort. The DUKE of KINGSTON's attachment was ardent, and truly sincere. He mingled the friend with the lover; nor was there an endearing title under Heaven he would not have assumed, could but the assumption have advanced the happiness of Miss CHUDLEIGH. For a series of years they cohabited, yet with such observance

of

of external decorum, that although their intimacy was a moral, it was not an evidenced certainty. That the felicity of the Duke was in any means promoted by this union, cannot be asserted consistent with truth. The parties were diametrically opposite characters. The Duke was mild, gracious, unassuming, and bashful in the extreme. He had every grace requisite in a man of rank. Ostentation he so much detested, that it was his custom, in perambulating the streets, to fold back the front of his coat, so as to hide the star; and whenever by accident it was discovered, the disclosure caused an involuntary blush. His Lady possessed very different qualities. In vociferating anger she could fairly boast an alliance with Juno. Ostentatious she was to an excess, and so little sublimed were her feelings, that the grossest flattery was an animating cordial to her spirits. It re-  
ordw
vived



vived her when more rational succours failed of effect. Thus contrarily gifted and disposed, the Duke and Miss Chudleigh were frequently on discordant terms; but she had a stronger hold of his mind, and the use she made of it was, finally to ruin herself. The Earl of Bristol, by time and attachments, had grown so weary of his conjugal state, as to be cordially desirous of a change. At first, when sounded on the subject of a divorce, he had used this expression, "I will see the —— at the devil, before her vanity shall be gratified by being a Duchess." Afterwards, however, there being a lady to whom he wished to offer his hand, he so altered his tone, as to express a readiness to consent to any possible means of annihilating the union subsisting between him and Miss Chudleigh. The civilians were consulted—a jactitation suit was instituted. The evidence

bevy who



who could prove the marriage was kept back.

Lord Bristol failing, as it was designed he should fail, in substantiating the marriage, a sentence of the court, pronouncing the nullity of the claim, concluded the business. The object now to be obtained was, legal opinion as to the operative power of such a sentence; and the civilians, highly tenacious of the rights of their own courts, adjudged the decree not liable to be disturbed by the interference of any extrinsic court of judicature. Under conviction of perfect safety, the marriage between his Grace of Kingston, and Miss Chudleigh, was publicly solemnized\*. The favours were

\* The marriage ceremony was performed on the 8th day of March, 1769, in the church of Saint Margaret, Westminster. The following is a copy of the register:

" No. 92. Marriages in March 1769. The Most  
 " Noble Evelyn Pierrepont, Duke of Kingston, a  
 Bachelor,

were worn by the highest personages in the kingdom \*; and, during the life of the Duke, not any attempt was made to dispute the legality of the procedure. The

" Bachelor, and the *Honourable Elizabeth Chudleigh*, of  
 " Knightsbridge, in Saint Margaret's, Westminster, a  
 " *Spinster*, were married by special licence of the Arch-  
 " bishop of Canterbury, this 8th of March, 1769, by  
 " me, *Samuel Harper*, of the British Museum.

" This marriage was solemnized between us,

" KINGSTON.

" ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH.

" *In the presence of*

" MASHAM,

" WILLIAM YEO,

" A. K. F. GILBERT,

" JAMES LAROCHE, JUN.

" ALICE YEO,

" J. ROSS MACKYE,

" E. R. A. LAROCHE,

" ARTHUR COLLIER,

" C. MASHAM."

\* Their present Majestie, were favours on the occasion.

fortune

fortune was not entailed; his Grace had, therefore, the option to bequeath it as seemed best to his inclination. The heirs since, were then expectants; their claims rested on hope, not certainty. The Duchess, for so she is now to be styled, figured without apprehension of control. She was raised to the pinnacle of her fate, and for a very few years did she enjoy that to which the chicanery of her life had been directed to accomplish, the parade of title without that honour which only can ennoble. To impede her in the career of enjoyment, and finally put an end to all her greatness, the Duke of KINGSTON died. His will, excluding from every benefit an elder, and preferring a younger nephew as his heir in tail, gave rise to a prosecution of the Duchess, which ended in the beggary of her prosecutor, and the exile of herself.

The demise of the DUKE of KINGSTON was not unexpected by those who observe the several premonitions of the King of Terrors. A paralytic stroke is among the harbingers of mortal dissolution, which is sure to be followed by the event announced. The Duke lingered but a short time, and that time was employed by his consort in journeying his Grace about, under the futile idea, by change of air and situation, of retarding the irreversible decree of Omnipotence. At last, when real danger seemed to threaten, even in the opinion of the Duchess, she dispatched one of her swiftest-footed messengers to her solicitor, the late Mr. Field, of the Temple, requiring his immediate attendance. He obeyed the summons, and arriving at the house, the Duchess privately imparted her wishes, which were, that he would procure the Duke to execute, and be himself a subscribing

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ing witness, to a will, made without his knowledge, and more to the taste of the Duchess, than the one completed. The difference between these two wills was this : The Duke had bequeathed the income of his estates to his relict, during her life, and expressly under condition of her continuing in a state of widowhood. Whether his Grace, in thus restraining her, did it in order to prevent the dishonour of his memory, by the introduction of an improper successor ; or, whether he acted from a consciousness of her extreme liability, with all her manœuvring, to be imposed on, must be left to conjecture. Perfectly satisfied, however, as the Duchess pretended to be with whatever appeared to be the inclination of her dearest Lord, she could not resist the seeming opportunity of carrying her secret wishes into effect. She did not relish the Temple of Hymen being shut against her.

her. Earnestly, therefore, did she press Mr. Field to have her own will immediately executed, which left her at perfect liberty to give her hand to the conqueror of her heart. She was only, by some years, on the wrong side of fifty; and the celebrated *Ninon de l'Enclos*, bloomed at threescore, and captivated at seventy. Here was an example which every amorous grandmother might have in view; and extremely cruel would it be to restrict ladies, ancient only in years, from matrimony, as the mean to keep their blood within the bounds of decorum. The Duchess, in her anxiety to have the restraint shaken off, had nearly deprived herself of every benefit derivable from the demise of the Duke. When Mr. Field was introduced to his Grace, his intellects were perceptibly affected. He knew the friends who approached him, and a transient knowledge of their persons was the only Indication

tion of mental exertion which seemed to be left him. Field very properly remonstrated on the impropriety of introducing a will, for execution, to a man in such a state. His remonstrance occasioned a severe reprehension from the Duchess, who reminded him, that he ought only to obey the instructions of his employer. Feeling, however, for his professional character, he positively refused either to tender the will, or be in any manner concerned in endeavouring to procure the execution. With this refusal, he quitted the house, the Duchess beholding him with an indignant eye, as the annoy of her scheme, when, in fact, by not complying with it, he proved her temporal Saviour; for, had the will she proposed, been executed, it would most indubitably have been set aside. The heirs would, consequently, have excluded the relict from every thing, except that to which the right

of

of dower entitled her; and, the lady in this as in other respects, would have been ruined by her own stratagem.

Soon after the frustration of this attempt, the DUKE of KINGSTON yielded to the stroke of fate. His will divulged, the funeral rites performed, and all other obsequial matters being properly adjusted, the Duchess embarked for the Continent, proposing Rome for her temporary residence. GANGANELLI at that time filled the Papal See. From the moderation of his principles, the consequent tolerant spirit which he, on every occasion, displayed, and the marked attention he bestowed on the English, he acquired the title of the Protestant Pope. To such a character, the Duchess was a welcome visitor. Ganganelli treated her with the utmost civility, gave her, as a Sovereign Prince, many privileges, and she



she was lodged in the palace of one of the Cardinals. Her vanity thus gratified, her Grace, in return, treated the Romans with a public spectacle. She had built an elegant pleasure yacht; a gentleman, who had served in the navy, was the commander; under her orders, he sailed for Italy, and the vessel, at considerable trouble and some expence, was conveyed up the Tiber. The sight of an English yacht there was uncommon. It drew the people in crouds to the shore, and the applause ran general through the city. This seemed to be the æra of festivity and happiness; but while the bark floated triumphantly on the undulations of the Tiber, a business was transacting in England which put an end to all momentary bliss. Mrs. CRADOCK, a woman now living, who, in the capacity of a domestic, had been present during the ceremony of marriage between Miss CHUDLEIGH and

LORD

LORD BRISTOL, found herself so reduced in circumstances, that she applied to Mr. FIELD for pecuniary relief. He saw her, and most injudiciously refused her every succour. In vain she urged her distress, and the absence of the Duchess, who was the only person on whose munificence she had the justest claim. FIELD was deaf to her entreaties: she then told him what was in her power to discover. To many circumstances which she related, he was an entire stranger, and he affected to discredit the rest. Mrs. CRADOCK ended the interview with a menace, that she would make the relations of the DUKE of KINGSTON acquainted with every important particular.—FIELD set her at defiance, and, thus exposed to penury, she was exasperated to vengeance, and instantly set about the work of ruin.

His

HIS GRACE of KINGSTON had borne to his grave, a marked dislike of one of his nephews. His private reason was well known to his confidential friends. Mr. EVELYN MEADOWS had been in, and went out of, the Navy. Let it suffice to say, that the Duke chose him not for his heir. He was one of the sons of LADY FRANCES PIERREPONT, sister of the DUKE of KINGSTON, consequently his nephew—but his Grace liked him not. The gentleman excluded his presumptive heirship, joyfully received the information that a method of doing himself substantial justice yet remained. He saw Mrs. CRADOCK—heard the detail of evidence which she offered—and, perfectly satisfied as to every iota of the relation being true, he, assisted by legal friends, had a Bill of Indictment for Bigamy preferred against the supposed widow of the DUKE of KINGSTON. The

Bill

Bill was found \*—Mr. FIELD had notice of the procedure, and the Duchess was properly

\* The following is a Copy of the Bill of Indictment.  
*Middlesex.*

“ The Jurors of our Sovereign Lord the now King,  
 “ present, that Elizabeth the wife of *Augustus-John*  
 “ *Hervey*, late of the parish of Saint George, Hanover  
 “ Square, in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, on the  
 “ eighth day of March, in the ninth year of the reign of  
 “ our Sovereign Lord George the Third, now King of  
 “ Great Britain, and so forth, being *then married*, and  
 “ then the wife of the said *Augustus-John Hervey*, with  
 “ force of arms, at the said parish of Saint George, Ha-  
 “ nover Square, in the said county of Middlesex, felo-  
 “ niously did marry and take to husband, *Evelyn Pier-*  
 “ *repont*, Duke of Kingston, (the said *Augustus-John*  
 “ *Hervey*, her *former husband*, being then alive) against  
 “ the form of the statute in such case made and provided,  
 “ and against the peace of our said Lord the King, his  
 “ crown and dignity; and the said Jurors, for our said  
 “ Sovereign Lord the now King, upon their oath afore-  
 “ said, farther present, that the said Elizabeth, hereto-  
 “ fore, (*to wit*) on the fourth day of August, in the  
 “ eighteenth year of the reign of our late Sovereign Lord  
 “ George the Second, late King of Great Britain, and  
 “ so forth, at the parish of *Lainston*, in the county of  
 “ Southampton, by the name of *Elizabeth Chudleigh*,  
 “ did



perly advised to return instantly to England, and appear to the Indictment, to prevent an outlawry. The intelligence appeared like a

“ did marry the said *Augustus-John Hervey*, and him  
 “ the said *Augustus-John Hervey* then and there had for  
 “ her husband. And that the said Elizabeth, being  
 “ married, and the wife of the said *Augustus-John Hervey*,  
 “ afterwards, (*to wit*) on the eighth day of March, in  
 “ the ninth year of the reign of our said Sovereign Lord  
 “ George the Third, now King of Great Britain, and  
 “ so forth, with force and arms, in the said parish of  
 “ Saint George, Hanover Square, in the said county  
 “ of Middlesex, feloniously did marry, and take to hus-  
 “ band, the said *Evelyn Pierrepont*, Duke of Kingston,  
 “ (the said *Augustus-John Hervey*, her former husband,  
 “ being then alive) against the form of the statute in such  
 “ case made and provided, and against the peace of our  
 “ said Sovereign Lord the now King, his crown and  
 “ dignity.

“ O. T.

“ True Bill.

“ *Augustine Greenland,*

“ *Ann Cradock,*

“ *Christopher Dixon,*

“ *Thomas Dodd,*

“ *Samuel Harper,*

“ *John Foxart.*”

*Sworn in the Court.*

too-powerful electrical shock—her nature with difficulty sustained it. On recovering the little of her judgment which was left, she drove to the house of Mr. JENKINS, a gentleman who has acquired a large property by small means, commencing with the purchase of the little finger of a mutilated statue, and ending in what he now is, the banker to all the British travellers who visit the tutelary residence of Saint Peter.

To baffle art by art, and defeat, by policy, that which true wisdom could not oppose with a probability of success, is the custom of every hackneyed practitioner in the world. It is owing to their excellence in this system, that the sons of earth are so much wiser, in their several generations, than the children of light. The Duchess of Kingston was merely a woman

of

of cunning, trusting solely to her machinations for success. Hence the barometer of her happiness rose, or was depressed, as her multifarious manœuvres produced what her chimerical fancy termed good or evil. The slightest check in the career of vanity; the least failure in the accomplishment of any vain-glorious project, occasioned a sigh. What then must the prospect of being compelled to bid farewell to all her greatness, have effected! Those least accustomed to reflect, are the most depressed by reflection. The attack made on the honours of the Duchess, struck also at her principles and character. She knew, and she felt, that if the whole of her conduct should be bared to the light, a consummate degree of moral turpitude would appear. As to the marriage with his Grace of Kingston, the solemn opinions of the Civilians might be

be urged in extenuation; but those opinions were obtained by partial facts only appearing to them. The EARL of BRISTOL had boasted of a marriage. The Lady whom he had denominated his wife, put him to the proof of the marriage; and with perfect safety she might do this, when she had taken previous care to prevent the only witness who could prove the fact, from giving testimony in the cause. Here was fraud; and, if Lord Bristol acquiesced in it, there was collusion. Another thing—There was certainly extreme turpitude in the fact of destroying the register of the marriage with the noble Earl, at one time; and there was the utmost fordidness in endeavouring to restore something like it, when likely to answer a selfish purpose. All these circumstances of evil-doing afforded miserable themes for reflection; and



and the period was now arrived, when reflection came with vengeance at her heels: but alternative there was none. An immediate return to England was the only measure to be adopted; and this the opponents of the Duchefs had endeavoured to prevent, by a species of artful policy, exactly suited to the Lady with whom they had to deal. MR. JENKINS was then a banker. The Duchefs had placed securities in his hands, answerable for the sums she might occasionally require. He was perfectly secure in any advance he might make; yet, apprized that the Duchefs would call on him for money to defray the expence of her journey to England, he avoided seeing her. On the first announcement of his not being at home, it was passed over as a mere unfortunate incident; but on the

the visits being repeated, and the denials being as frequent, the conduct was justly imputed to design. The scheme was to delay the return of the Duchess, so as that an outlawry might be obtained, which, in the eye of imagination, appeared the probable method of acquiring the estates of the late Duke. This was folly, because the will of his Grace, in his own hand writing, was so guarded as not to be attacked with the remotest possibility of success. Such, however, was the idea; and from whatever presumeable motive it originated, MR. JENKINS assuredly coincided with the plan. Aware of this, the Duchess was incessant in her applications; and finding all her efforts to see MR. JENKINS fail, she pocketed a brace of pistols, returned to his house, and receiving the usual answer that he was not at home, she sat on the steps of his door, and  
declared

declared her determined resolution there to remain until he returned, were it for a week, month, or year. She knew that business would compel his return; and, finding it impracticable any longer to elude an interview, MR. JENKINS appeared. As the Duchess possessed that blessed gift of utterance, for which ladies of spirit are sometimes so eminently famous, it may be supposed, that the conversation with the banker was not of the mildest kind. Money was demanded, not asked. A little prevarication ensued; but the production of a pistol served as the most powerful mode of reasoning: the necessary was obtained, and the Duchess instantly quitted Rome.

We are now to behold the object of our succinct detail, in a light pitiable in the  
D extreme.

extreme. About to combat a prosecution, the event of which, the monitor within must inform the culprit, would be fatal; a series of reflections, and each accompanied by a censure, crowding on the mind, and putting the perturbed spirits on the rack of painful sensation; attended only by domestics, and wanting the consolation of a friend, each pace was a nearer approach to misery, and every hour only the anticipation of future woe. This was enough to overpower nature; nor will it be deemed surprising, that, under such oppressive circumstances, the health of the Duchess should be violently attacked. Her journey was retarded before she reached the Alps. A fever seemed to seize on her vitals. From that she recovered, to the astonishment of her attendants. An abscess then formed in  
her



her side, which rendering it impossible for her to endure the motion of a carriage, a kind of litter was provided, in which she gently travelled. In this situation, nature was relieved by the breaking of the abscess; and, after a tediously painful journey, the Duchess reached Calais. At that place she made a pause, and there it was that her apprehension got the better of her reason. In idea she was fettered, and incarcerated in the worst cell of the worst prison in London. She was totally ignorant of the bailable nature of her offence, and by consequence expected the utmost to be imagined. COLONEL WEST, a brother of the late Lord Delaware, whom the Duchess had known in England, became her principal associate; but he was not lawyer sufficient to satisfy her doubts.

By the means of former connections, and through a benevolence in his own nature, the EARL of MANSFIELD had a private interview with the Duchefs. Without mentioning the place of meeting, suffice it to observe, that this venerable Peer, who, having nearly finished his course, is now subliming in spirit preparatory to the fruition of cœlestial happiness, conducted himself in a manner, which did honour to his heart and character. Her spirits soothed, and her futile apprehensions removed by the interview, the Duchefs embarked for Dover, landed, drove post to Kingston House, and found friends displaying both zeal and alacrity in her cause.

The present DUKE of NEWCASTLE was steadily devoted to her welfare. The

DUKES of ANCASTER and PORTLAND testified their sincere good wishes \* ; LORD MOUNTSTUART shewed, in numerous instances, his kindness; and there were not wanting a circle of other distinguished personages, who, reprobating the prosecution as originating in mercenary and vindictive motives, conceived themselves to be justified in protecting, as far as in their power lay, the object persecuted. The

\* Lord BARRINGTON also preserved, to the last hour of her life, a truly sincere attachment for the Duchess. On her trial, he was called as an evidence, and the questions put to him, being intended to extort what had passed in private conversation, his Lordship, with a great degree of firmness, declined giving any answer. The Peers withdrew, and on returning, delivered it as their opinion, that the Noble Lord was bounden to answer the questions. He still, however, refused; and, to get rid of the business, the questions which had been proposed, were softened, and his further testimony was dispensed with. The *Duchess* and *Lord Barrington* constantly corresponded.

first measure taken was to have the Duchess bailed. This was done before Lord Mansfield, his Grace of Newcastle, Lord Mountstuart, Mr. GLOVER \*, and other characters

\* *Philips Glover, Esq.* a Lincolnshire gentleman, independent in fortune, and in soul. His word, given even on occasions the most trivial, is veracity itself. Professions he makes not; unless they are suggested by the feelings of his heart. To duplicity his nature is so infinitely averse, that on the slightest appearance of it, his indignation is aroused; not meaning to trifle with others, he will not suffer the most exalted characters to trifle with him. Of this he gave a signal instance, when the late *Marquis of Rockingham*, being the Minister, betrayed an inclination to dispense with a promise he had given *Mr. Glover*, to place a lad in the Charter House. The *Marquis* played the *Courtier*, forgetting the nature of the man with whom he had to deal. After several attempts to evade, *Mr. Glover* brought the matter to issue, by requesting a Peer to tell the *Marquis*, who was his friend, "That if he did not immediately perform his promise, he would pull his skin over his ears, and that at a public meeting in his own county." This language soon settled the matter;



ractions of rank attending. This disagreeable matter adjusted, the manner of adjusting it was such as to solace the mind, and prepared it for a greater encounter. It is in the constitution of sublunary things, that the endurance of evils is the lot of mortality ; and it is in the benignant order of Heaven, that the worst evils should be endurable, by happening so progressively, as that our natures are tempered, by gradation, to the infelicity of their condition.

The prosecution, and consequent trial of the Duchess, becoming objects of magnitude, the public curiosity and expectation were proportionably excited. The

matter ; and the lad whom *Mr. Glover* had patronized, filled the vacancy at the Charter House. *Mr. Glover* was an intimate friend of the Duke of Kingston.

Duchess

Duchess had, through life, distinguished herself as a most eccentric character. Her turn of mind was original, and many of her actions were without a parallel. Even when she moved in the sphere of amusement, it was in a style peculiarly her own. If others invited admiration by a partial display of their charms, at a masquerade, she at once threw off the veil, and set censure at defiance. Thus at a midnight assembly, where Bacchus revelled, and the altars of Venus were encircled by the votaries of Love, the Duchess, then denominated Miss Chudleigh, appeared almost in the unadorned simplicity of primitive nature. Whether to demonstrate how nearly she was allied to her ancestress, Eve, before the fall; or, whether from a religious veneration of the customs which prevailed in Eden; whatever was her motive, certain it is, that she was every thing

thing but *naked*\*; and yet, like our first parents, she was not *ashamed*. Thus erratic in her nature, the dilemma into which she was thrown by the pending prosecution, was scarcely more than might be expected to happen to such a character. She had, in a manner, invited the disgrace, by neglecting the means of preventing it. Mrs. CRADOCK, the only existing evidence against her, had personally solicited a maintenance for the remaining years of her life. On a certain annual stipend being settled on her, she had voluntarily offered to retire to her native village, and never more intrude.— This offer was rejected by the Duchess, who would only consent to allow her

\* This alludes to her appearance in the character of IPHIGENIA, at a Jubilee Ball, in the year 1744. An exact delineation of her dress is given in the Frontispiece of this Detail.



twenty pounds a year, on condition of her sequestering herself in some place near the *Peake of Derbyshire*. This the Duchess considered as a most liberal offer; and, she expressed her astonishment that the "*Old devil*," as she used to call her, should have had the assurance to reject it. To her cost in purse, and to her agony in mind, it was rejected with the utmost scorn, and she who was refused a paltry pittance, except on condition of banishment for life, might afterwards have received thousands to abscond. The impulse of fear would produce what the feelings of humanity never could call forth.

From the moment in which the recognizances for the appearance of the Duchess were entered into, a scene of law disclosed itself. Books of cases were purchased in abundance,



abundance, precedents were blotted with ink, the pages doubled down, and pins stuck in the several notes of reference. Instead of travelling like a Jew pedlar, with a diamond box at her back, TAYLOR's *Elements of Civil Law*, COKE's *Institutes*, some history of the Privileges of Peers to be doubly married, or a volume of the State Trials, garnished the coach in which the Duchess drove from his Grace of Newcastle to Mr. ARMSTRONG, the Sheriff's officer. By the gentlemen of the robe, as it may be naturally supposed, the Duchess was surrounded, and so charitably were they disposed, that they gave her every consolation she could wish. The civilians were armed at all points to prove that a sentence of their courts was an effectual bar to the admission of evidence. Like Fate, an ecclesiastical decree was irrevocable. The com-

mon lawyers, on the other hand, smiled, or affected to smile, at the idea of a conviction. It was a mere phantom conjured up in the hour of dismay for the purpose of affrighting. Under these assurances, the Duchess was as quiet as the troublesome monitor in her bosom would give permission. When a gentle hint of possible danger was suggested by any of the disinterested few, the mercenary many instantly soothed all into peace. Reconciled, therefore, in some measure, to the encounter, the repose of the Duchess was, on a sudden, interrupted by an adversary from a different quarter. This was no less celebrated a personage than the late SAMUEL FOOTE. The circumstance was as follows :

Mr. FOOTE, as a cotemporary, and mixing, as he did, in the first circles of fashion,  
on,

on, was perfectly acquainted with the leading transactions of the Duchess's life. Besides this, he had received much private information from some person who had lived in the house with her. The suspicion, at the time, fell on a Miss PENROSE, a young lady who had experienced so many gracious promises from the Duchess, that she only found it necessary to provide for herself until they were accomplished. Whoever furnished the intelligence, it certainly was of the most private kind, and, possessing it, FOOTE resolved to make something of what he thus knew. As, in the opinion of MANDEVILLE, private vices are public benefits, so FOOTE deemed the crimes and follies of individuals convertible into advantage by the amalgamy of wit. On this principle, he proceeded with the Duchess of Kingston. He had written a piece, entitled, "*A Trip to Calais.*"

The

The scenes were humorous, the character of the Duchess was most admirably drawn, and the effect was accomplished; which was, that she should see, and be ashamed of, herself. The real design of Foote was, to obtain a considerable sum of money from the Duchess, for suppressing the piece. With this view he contrived to have it communicated to her Grace, by an indifferent person, that the Haymarket theatre would open with the entertainment in which she was, as the phrase is, taken off to the life. This was intended to alarm, and it did effectually alarm her. She sent for Mr. Foote. He attended, with the piece in his pocket. She desired him to read a part of it. He obeyed; and proceeding in the character of LADY KITTY CROCODILE, his auditors could no longer forbear. She arose, in a violent passion, and  
exclaimed,



exclaimed, " This is scandalous, Mr. Foote! Why, what a wretch you have made me!" " You! (replied the humourist) this is not designed for your Grace; it is not you!" After a few turns about the room, the Duchess calmed her turbulence, and assuming a smile, entreated it as a favour that Mr. Foote would leave the piece for her perusal, engaging at the same time to return it on the ensuing morning. He readily complied. The carriage was ordered, and he took his leave. Left thus to consider her own picture, so much did her Grace dislike it, that she determined, if possible, to prevent the exposure of it to public view. As the artist had no objection to selling it, she inclined to be the purchaser. This was the next morning made known to Foote, who was questioned as to the sum which would satisfy him for suppressing

suppressing the piece. Proportioning his expectations to her power of gratifying them, he demanded Two THOUSAND POUNDS, and to be paid a certain sum, in compensation for a loss which, he pretended, would be sustained by the scenes designed for the "TRIP TO CALAIS," being appropriated to other uses. The enormity of this demand staggered the Duchefs. By messages she intimated her extreme surprize, and a wish that the request were moderated within the boundary of reason. Imagining that she must at last comply, Foote would not abate one guinea. She offered him fourteen, then *sixteen hundred pounds*, and had actually a draft on Messrs. DRUMMOND, for that sum, for his acceptance. This yielding, only induced Foote to think he should finally succeed, until by grasping at too much, he over-stood his market, and lost every thing.

The

The demand made by Foote on the DUCHESS, might, at any time except the particular juncture in which it was urged, have passed among the other indifferent events of the hour, as wholly unmeriting the public notice. There are innumerable incidents which start up, like bubbles on the water, and are daily carried down the stream of time, without even exciting observation, much less interesting our attention. Self, or what a man of worth considereth as his other self, a friend must be engaged, before we are stimulated to take an active part in any pending business of whatever nature. It was thus in the case now relating. Those long connected with the Duchess, and in established habits of intimacy, felt the attack made on her, as directed by a Russian hand, at a moment when she was, of all moments of her life, the least able to make

make any resistance. A bill of indictment had been found. At the hazard of her life had she journeyed, from Rome to London, to abide the consequences of a most serious prosecution. During her absence, every method had been adopted by her opponents, to degrade her in the public opinion ; and, now, that she had come fairly forward to meet her fate, it was no more than a common principle of equity that, pending the suit against her, all should be quiescent. Every alien attack was criminal barbarity. To prejudice was to bias ; and, the consequence of the Public, and of Judges as component parts of that public, being biased against a culprit, had been fatally experienced in a variety of instances.—There was another unanswerable plea in bar to any wanton or malicious attack. This was the SEX of the party prosecuted.

For



For women, men should ever feel, and feeling, should ever be their advocates. With all their faults they are the solacers of life; and, when virtue is blunted with their charms, they become irresistible. It was vain, however, altogether vain, to suppose that FOOTER could be softened, by what would melt down, as it were, the feelings of others, in the mould of compassion. Mr. FOOTER abounded in wit and mimicry, and, both united, spared neither age, sex, nor condition. Instead of a pistol, he had a libel in his hand; this he presented to the bosom of a female, and threatened to direct the contents to her heart, unless she delivered to him TWO THOUSAND POUNDS. The critical period when this attempt was made, as before intimated, was such as to interest every friend of the Duchess, in her behalf. His Grace the Duke of  
NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE was consulted. The Chamberlain of the Household was apprized of the circumstance ; and, his prohibitory interference was earnestly solicited. He sent for the manuscript copy of the "*Trip to Calais*," perused and censured it. This occasioned a remonstrating letter \* from FOOTE, to the EARL of HERTFORD,

\* LETTER from MR. FOOTE to the EARL of HERTFORD.

" My LORD,

" I did intend troubling your Lordship with an  
 " earlier address, but the day after I received your  
 " prohibitory mandate, I had the honour of a visit  
 " from Lord Mountstuart, to whose interposition I  
 " find I am indebted for your first commands, re-  
 " lative to the *Trip to Calais*, by Mr. Chetwynd,  
 " and your final rejection of it by Colonel Keen.

" Lord Mountstuart has, I presume, told your  
 " Lordship, that he read with me those scenes to  
 " which your Lordship objected, that he found them  
 " collected from general nature, and applicable to

" none

HERTFORD, at that time in office. Beside these, and other powerful aids, the Ducheſs called

“ none but thoſe who, through conſciouſneſs, were  
 “ compelled to a ſelf-application To ſuch minds,  
 “ my Lord, the Whole Duty of Man, next to the  
 “ Sacred Writings, is the ſevereſt ſatire that ever was  
 “ wrote ; and to the ſame mark, if Comedy directs  
 “ not her aim, her arrows are ſhot in the air ; for  
 “ by what touches no man, no man will be mended.  
 “ Lord Mountſtuart deſired that I would ſuffer him  
 “ to take the play with him, and let him leave it  
 “ with the Ducheſs of Kingſton : he had my con-  
 “ ſent, my Lord, and at the ſame time an aſſurance,  
 “ that I was willing to make any alteration that her  
 “ Grace would ſuggeſt. Her Grace ſaw the play,  
 “ and, in conſequence, I ſaw her Grace ; with the  
 “ reſult of that interview, I ſhall not, at this time,  
 “ trouble your Lordſhip. It may, perhaps, be ne-  
 “ ceſſary to obſerve, that her Grace could not diſ-  
 “ cern, which your Lordſhip, I dare ſay, will rea-  
 “ dily believe, a ſingle trait in the character of  
 “ Lady Kitty Crocodile, that reſembled herſelf.

“ After this representation, your Lordſhip, will I  
 “ doubt not, permit me to enjoy the fruits of my  
 “ labour ; nor will you think it reaſonable, becauſe  
 “ a capricious

called in jurisprudential advice. The Sages  
of the Robe were consulted, and their  
opinions

“ a capricious individual has taken it into her head,  
“ that I have pinned her ruffles awry, that I should  
“ be punished by a poniard stuck deep in my heart :  
“ your Lordship has too much candour and jus-  
“ tice to be the instrument of so violent and ill-  
“ directed a blow.

“ Your Lordship’s determination is not only of the  
“ greatest importance to me now, but must inevi-  
“ tably decide my fate for the future, as, after this  
“ defeat, it will be impossible for me to muster up  
“ courage enough to face Folly again ; between the  
“ muse and the magistrate there is a natural con-  
“ deracy ; what the last cannot punish the first of-  
“ ten corrects ; but when she finds herself not only  
“ deserted by her ancient ally, but sees him armed  
“ in the defence of her foe, she has nothing left  
“ but a speedy retreat : Adieu then, my Lord,  
“ to the stage. Valeat res ludicra, to which, I  
“ hope, I may with justice add, plaudite, as, during  
“ my continuance in the service of the Public, I  
“ never profited by flattering their passions, or fall-  
“ ing in with their humours, as upon all occasions,  
“ I have exerted my little powers (as indeed I thought  
“ it



opinions were, " That the Piece was a  
 " malicious libel, and that should it be  
 " represented, a short-hand writer ought  
 " to be employed by the Duchefs to at-  
 " tend on the night of representation,  
 " to minute each offensive passage, as  
 " the ground-work of a prosecution."  
 This advice was followed, because con-  
 sonant with the ideas of the Duchefs,

" it my duty) in exposing follies, how much soever  
 " the favourites of the day; and pernicious prejudices,  
 " however protected and popular. This, my Lord,  
 " has been done, if those may be believed who have  
 " the best right to know, sometimes with success;  
 " let me add too, that in doing this I never lost  
 " my credit with the Public, because they knew  
 " that I proceeded upon principle; that I disdained  
 " being either the echo or the instrument of any man,  
 " however exalted his station, and that I never re-  
 " ceived reward or protection from any other hands  
 " than their own.

" I have the honour to be, &c.

" SAMUEL FOOTE."

who,

who, by this time, had become a very great Lawyeress. BLANCHARD was the person selected in preference to GURNEY, and his admission fee to one of the side boxes, being properly guaranteed, a complete entrapment was supposed to be laid for FOOTE. Whether he received private intimation of the scheme, or whether he found his attempt on the purse of the Duchess, excite the displeasure of those whose favours were of consequence to him; whatever caused the intimidation, intimidated he began to be. The proof which he gave of it was, a denial that he ever had made so exorbitant a demand as Two THOUSAND POUNDS for the suppression of the piece. This denial much contributed to his injury, because the *Rev. MR. FOSTER*,\*  
a clergyman

\* MR. FOSTER had, in the early part of his life, been selected by old *Edward Wortley Montague*, the

a clergyman of respectability, considerably advanced in years, and who had

E through

the husband of the late celebrated *Lady Mary*, and the father of the present *Lady Bute*, to superintend the education of that very eccentric character, the late *Edward Wortley Montague*. FOSTER was perfectly qualified for the station of a private tutor, but his pupil was so exceedingly disposed to fly off, as it were, in a tangent, as to render it utterly impossible to fix his attention to any thing worthy pursuit. After thrice running away, and being discovered by his father's *valet*, crying *flounders* about the streets of *Deptford*, he was sent to the West-Indies, whither Foster accompanied him. On their return to England, a good-natured stratagem was practised to obtain a temporary supply of money from old Montague, and at the same time to give him a favourable opinion of his son's attention to a particular species of erudition. The stratagem was this: "FOSTER writ a book which he entitled, "*The Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic.*" To this he subjoined the name of *Edward Wortley Montague, jun. Esq.* Old Wortley, seeing the book advertised, sent for his son, and gave him a Bank Note of *one hundred pounds*, promising him a similar present for every new edition which the book should pass through. It was well received by the Public, and therefore a second edition

through life mingled with the great world, came voluntarily forward, and made an affidavit of the following facts : “ That in  
 “ consequence of the threat to perform  
 “ the *Trip to Calais*, he waited on Mr.  
 “ Foote, and remonstrated with him on the  
 “ extreme barbarity of such an attack, at  
 “ such a particular juncture. That Mr.  
 “ Foote had only agreed to suppress the  
 “ piece, on his receiving from the Duchess

edition occasioned a second supply. It is now in libraries with the name of *Wortley Montague*, prefixed as the author, although he did not write a line of it. MR. FOSTER was afterwards Chaplain to the celebrated *Sir William Wyndham* : he then went to *Petersburg*, in the suite of the English Ambassador. Many years afterwards, he became acquainted with the Duke of Kingston, and, on the demise of his Grace, the Duchess appointed him her domestic Chaplain. He accompanied her on her first visit to *Petersburgh*, and the Empress, who had known him before, gave him an appointment in the academy, annexing a stipend out of her privy purse. This appointment he held a short time, and died in the *eighty-sixth year* of his age.



“ the sum of *Two Thousand Pounds.*” This affidavit was so complete a refutation of the denial, as not to leave it in the power of ingenuity to retort, and with the Public, the testimony of Mr. Foster had every desired effect.

Thus defeated in point of fact, Foote found himself baffled also in point of design. The Chamberlain would not permit the piece to be represented. Foote tried the force of his connections ; but it was the effort of weakness against inflexibility. Here the utmost which his humour could do, was to support a laugh at the expence of his purse. He was to be merry in sadness—for sadness the loss of *sixteen hundred pounds* must privately have occasioned. So little did Foote relish the deprivation of this sum, that he opened a new negociation with the Duchess, causing it to be intimated to her, “ That

“ was in his power to *publish*, if not to  
 “ *perform* ; but that were his expences re-  
 “ imburfed, (and the fum which her Grace  
 “ had formerly offered him, would do the  
 “ bufiness) he would desist.” This inti-  
 mation being communicated to the Duchess,  
 she did in this, as in too many cases, ask  
 the opinion of her friends, with a secret  
 determination to follow her own. Foote,  
 finding that she began to yield, pressed his  
 desire incessantly ; and she had actually  
 provided bills to the amount of sixteen  
 hundred pounds, which she would have  
 given Foote, but for the following circum-  
 stance : The EARL of PETERBOROUGH,  
 Doctor ISAAC SCHOMBERG, the Rev. Mr.  
 FOSTER, and Mr. FIELD the Solicitor,  
 were alternately consulted, and they seve-  
 rally reprobated the demand as a scandalous  
 imposition, with which it would be weak-  
 ness to comply. DOCTOR SCHOMBERG,  
 in

in particular, declared, " That although  
 " he had been for many years intimate  
 " with Foote, and had spent some of the  
 " pleasantest hours of his life in his com-  
 " pany, yet he would tell him to his face,  
 " as a man, that he deserved to be run  
 " through the body for such an attempt.  
 " It was more ignoble than the conduct of  
 " an highwayman." This pointed lan-  
 guage, dictated, as every utterance from  
 the lips of ISAAC SCHOMBERG was, by the  
 feelings of an honourable heart, had consi-  
 derable effect; but still the Duchess dreaded  
 the pen, almost as much as the personified  
 humour of Foote; and of the powers of  
 literary defence she was herself entirely  
 destitute. In this juncture of alarm, the  
*Reverend* Mr. JACKSON, who was at that  
 time Editor of a political paper in some es-  
 timation with the oppositionists to the rui-  
 nous measures of *Lord North*, being asked  
 his

his opinion of the demand made by Foote, returned this answer: " Instead of complying with it, your Grace should obtain complete evidence of the menace and demand, and then consult your Counsel whether a prosecution will not lie for endeavouring to extort money by threats. Your Grace must remember the attack on the first *Duke of Marlborough*, who was endeavoured to be *menaced* into compliance by a stranger, who had formed a design either on his purse or his interest." This answer struck the EARL of PETERBOROUGH, and Mr. FOSTER, very forcibly, as in perfect coincidence with their own opinions. His Grace the DUKE of ANCASTER also accorded in idea. Mr. JACKSON was then solicited to wait on Mr. Foote; Mr. Foster, the proper Chaplain of the Duchess, professing himself to be too far advanced in years to enter the field of literary



rary combat. Mr. JACKSON consented to be the champion, on the subsequent condition, " That the Duchess would give her  
 " honour never to retract her determination  
 " not to let Foote extort from her one  
 " single guinea." Subscribing to this condition, Mr. JACKSON waited on Mr. Foote, at his house in Suffolk-street, adjoining the Haymarket Theatre. After the usual ceremonies, Mr. Jackson told him, " That he  
 " came as a friend of the Duchess of Kingston, and wished to be favoured with a  
 " categorical answer to this question, whether Mr. Foote meant to publish the piece  
 " which the Chamberlain had refused to  
 " license, called *A Trip to Calais*?" Mr. Foote was about to enter into a long detail respecting the vast expence which had been incurred, when Mr. Jackson interrupted him thus: " If, Sir, you mean, by informing me of the expence, to intimate  
 " an

“ an expectation that the whole, or any  
 “ part of it, should be defrayed by the  
 “ Duchess, I fairly tell you that you will  
 “ find yourself mistaken ; she will not give  
 “ you one guinea.” Foote endeavoured to  
 turn this off by a laugh, and instead of re-  
 sponding to the point, he begged Mr. Jackson  
 would hear him read the letter which he  
 had written to the Earl of Hertford, com-  
 plaining of the hardship of prohibiting the  
 representation of a piece, merely because  
 some lady of quality might suppose herself  
 ridiculed for *pinning her ruffles awry* ; and  
 although there was point, wit, and bril-  
 liancy in it, yet it was not an answer to the  
 question. Mr. Jackson, therefore, finally  
 repeated it, when Mr. Foote said, “ O, I  
 “ shall certainly publish the piece, unless  
 “ the Duchess will consider the heavy loss  
 “ which I shall sustain. But why the devil  
 “ does *Isaac Schomberg* interfere ? We should  
 “ hunt

" hunt down these *reps* of quality in cou-  
 " ples. Besides, LADY KITTY CROCODILE  
 " will suit nine, out of ten, widows of  
 " fashion in the kingdom. Their *damned*  
 " *tears* are like a *shower* in *sunshine*, re-  
 " freshing their weeds, and making their  
 " faces look the brighter." Mr. Jackson,  
 on this, wished Mr. Foote a good morning,  
 and was about to retire, when Foote put his  
 hand on his shoulder, and said, " What !  
 " and so I am to be attacked if I publish  
 " *The Trip to Calais.*" Mr. Jackson re-  
 plied, " The publication will be an attack  
 " from you, Mr. Foote, the effect of which,  
 " I, as the friend of the Duchefs, will do  
 " my utmost to prevent." Here the inter-  
 view ended.

Foote, however, still wished to have  
 matters compromised, and a meeting to  
 take place. To accomplish this, he ad-

dressed a letter to the Duchess, which began  
 by stating, " That a Member of the Privy  
 " Council, and a friend of her Grace, (by  
 " whom he meant the *Duke of Newcastle*)  
 " had conversed with him on the subject of  
 " the dispute between them ; and that for  
 " himself he was ready to have every thing  
 " adjusted." This letter gave the Duchess  
 a triumph. There was concession in every  
 line. She sent for Mr. Jackson. Thanked  
 him ten thousand times for his interference.  
 Declared that he had saved her *sixteen hun-*  
*dred pounds*. She shewed him the letter which  
 she had received from Foote, and desired him,  
 in her name, to answer it, and publish both.  
 This he declined, alledging, that a new-  
 paper controversy would degrade her. She,  
 however, thought otherwise ; and the town  
 was amused by the following correspondence  
 passing between the Duchess and her mimic  
 antagonist :

" To



“ *To her Grace the Duchess of Kingston.*

“ MADAM,

“ A Member of the Privy Council, and  
 “ a friend of your Grace’s, he has begged  
 “ me not to mention his name, but I sup-  
 “ pose your Grace will easily guess him, has  
 “ just left me ; he has explained to me,  
 “ what I did not conceive, that the publi-  
 “ cation of the scenes in the *Trip to Calais*,  
 “ at this juncture, with the dedication and  
 “ preface, might be of infinite ill conse-  
 “ quence to your affairs.

“ I really, Madam, wish you no ill, and  
 “ should be sorry to do you an injury.

“ I therefore give up to that consideration,  
 “ what neither your Grace’s offers, nor the  
 “ threats of your agents could obtain ; the  
 “ scenes shall not be published, nor shall any  
 “ thing

“ thing appear at my theatre, or from me,  
“ that can hurt you ;

“ Provided the attack made on me in the  
“ newspapers, does not make it necessary  
“ for me to act in defence of myself.

“ Your Grace will therefore see the ne-  
“ cessity of giving proper directions.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Your Grace’s

“ Most devoted servant,

“ SAM. FOOTE.”

*North End,*

*Sunday, Aug. 13th, 1755.*

( C O P Y . \* )

• This letter is printed exactly from the manu-  
script.

To

To Mr. F O O T E.

“ S I R,

“ I was at dinner when I received your  
 “ ill-judged letter. As there is little con-  
 “ sideration required, I shall sacrifice a mo-  
 “ ment to answer it.

“ A Member of your Privy Council can  
 “ never hope to be of a lady’s cabinet.

“ I know too well what is due to my  
 “ own dignity, to enter into a compro-  
 “ mise with an extortionable assassin of  
 “ private reputation. If I before abhor-  
 “ red you for your slander, I now def-  
 “ pise you for your concessions ; it is a  
 “ proof of the illiberality of your satire,  
 “ when you can publish or suppress it  
 “ as best suits the needy convenience  
 “ of

“ of your purse. You first had the  
 “ cowardly baseness to draw the sword,  
 “ and, if I sheath it, until I make you  
 “ crouch like the subservient vassal as  
 “ you are, then is there no spirit in an  
 “ injured woman, nor meanness in a slan-  
 “ derous buffoon.

“ To a man my sex alone would have  
 “ screened me from attack—but I am  
 “ writing to the descendant of a Merry  
 “ Andrew, and prostitute the name of man-  
 “ hood, by applying it to Mr. Foote.

“ Cloathed in my innocence as in a  
 “ coat of mail, I am proof against an  
 “ host of foes ; and conscious of never  
 “ having intentionally offended a single  
 “ individual, I doubt not but a brave  
 “ and generous people will protect me from  
 “ the malevolence of a theatrical assassin.

“ You



“ You shall have cause to remember, that  
 “ though I would have given liberally for the  
 “ relief of your necessities, I scorn to be  
 “ bullied into a purchase of your silence.

“ There is something, however, in your  
 “ pity at which my nature revolts. To make  
 “ me an offer of pity, at once betrays your  
 “ insolence and your vanity. I will keep the  
 “ pity you send until the morning before  
 “ you are turned off, when I will return it  
 “ by a Cupid, with a box of lip-salve, and  
 “ a choir of choristers shall chaunt a stave  
 “ to your requiem.

“ E. KINGSTON.

“ *Kingston-House,*

“ *Sunday, 13th August.*

“ P. S. You would have received this  
 “ sooner, but the servant has been a long  
 “ time writing it.”

( C O P Y. )

To

To the DUCHESS of KINGSTON.

“ MADAM,

“ Though I have neither time nor inclination to answer the illiberal attacks of your agents, yet a public correspondence with your Grace is too great an honour for me to decline. I can’t help thinking but it would have been prudent in your Grace to have answered my letter before dinner, or at least postponed it to the cool hour of the morning ; you would then have found that I had voluntarily granted that request which you had endeavoured, by so many different ways, to obtain.

“ Lord Mountstuart, for whose amiable qualities I have the highest respect, and whose name your agents first unnecessarily produced

“ produced to the public, must recollect,  
 “ when I had the honour to meet him at  
 “ Kingston House, by your Grace’s ap-  
 “ pointment, that instead of begging re-  
 “ lief from your charity, I rejected your  
 “ splendid offers to suppress the Trip to  
 “ Calais, with the contempt they deserved.  
 “ Indeed, Madam, the humanity of my  
 “ royal and benevolent Master, and the  
 “ public protection, have placed me much  
 “ above the reach of your bounty.

“ But why, Madam, put on your coat  
 “ of mail against me? I have no hos-  
 “ tile intentions. Folly, not vice, is the  
 “ game I pursue. In those scenes which  
 “ you so unaccountably apply to your-  
 “ self, you must observe that there is  
 “ not the slightest hint at the little incidents  
 “ of your life, which have excited the cu-  
 “ riosity of the Grand Inquest for the county  
 “ of

“ of Middlesex. I am happy, Madam, how-  
 “ ever, to hear, that your robe of inno-  
 “ cence is in such perfect repair ; I was  
 “ afraid it might have been a little the  
 “ worse for the wearing ; may it hold out  
 “ to keep you warm the next winter.

“ The progenitors your Grace has done  
 “ me the honour to give me, are, I pre-  
 “ sume, merely metaphorical persons, and  
 “ to be considered as the authors of my  
 “ muse, and not of my manhood : a Merry  
 “ Andrew and a Prostitute are no bad po-  
 “ etical parents, especially for a writer of  
 “ plays ; the first to give the humour and  
 “ mirth, the last to furnish the graces and  
 “ powers of attraction. Prostitutes and  
 “ players too must live by pleasing the  
 “ public ; not but your Grace may have  
 “ heard of ladies, who, by private prac-  
 “ tice, have accumulated amazing great  
 “ fortunes.



“ fortunes. If you mean that I really owe  
 “ my birth to that pleasant connection,  
 “ your Grace is grossly deceived. My  
 “ father was, in truth, a very useful Magis-  
 “ trate and respectable country gentleman,  
 “ as the whole county of Cornwall will tell  
 “ you. My mother, the daughter of Sir  
 “ Edward Goodere, Bart. who represented  
 “ the county of Hereford ; her fortune was  
 “ large, and her morals irreproachable, till  
 “ your Grace condescended to stain them ;  
 “ she was upwards of fourscore years when  
 “ she died \*, and, what will surprize your  
 “ Grace, was never married but once in

\* This *mother*, whom *Mr. Foote* thus affects to re-  
 vere, he suffered to remain a prisoner for debt, within  
 the rules of the King's Bench, and that at a time when  
 he was in the zenith of his fame, lolled at his ease in  
 an equipage, and, like the rich man described in the  
 Gospel, “ fared sumptuously every day.” His liberal  
 allowance for her support in confinement, was *twenty*  
*pounds a year !* This is a fact : let the public make the  
 comment.

“ her

“ her life. I am obliged to your Grace  
 “ for your intended present on the day,  
 “ as you politely express it, when I am to  
 “ be turned off. But where will your  
 “ Grace get the Cupid to bring me the lip-  
 “ salve? That family, I am afraid, has  
 “ long quitted your service.

“ Pray, Madam, is not *Jackson* the name  
 “ of your female confidential secretary?  
 “ and is not she generally cloathed in  
 “ black petticoats made out of your  
 “ weeds?

“ So mourned the dame of Ephesus her love.”

“ I fancy your Grace took the hint when  
 “ you last resided in Rome; you heard  
 “ there, I suppose of a certain Joan,  
 “ who was once elected a Pope, and, in  
 “ humble imitation, have converted a pious  
 “ Parson

“ Parson into a chambermaid. The scheme  
 “ is new in this country, and has doubt-  
 “ less its particular pleasures. That you  
 “ may never want the benefit of the clergy  
 “ in every emergence, is the sincere wish  
 “ of

“ Your Grace’s

“ Most devoted, and

“ obliged humble servant,

“ SAMUEL FOOTE.”

This farce carrying on with Foote, served to turn, for a time, the current of thought into a different channel ; but it becoming necessary, in the progress of events, to adopt some serious measures, either with a view to evade, or meet the pending prosecution, the Dukes openly affected a most earnest desire to have the trial, if possible,

sible, accelerated. Secretly, however, she was employed in trying every stratagem, in the power of art to devise, to elude the measures taken against her. A very favourable opportunity offered, which, had she embraced it, her purpose would have been accomplished. The critical moment thus presented itself. It became a matter of debate, in the House of Peers, whether the trial of her Grace should, or should not be carried on in Westminster Hall. The expence to be incurred by the nation, was, by several Peers, considered as inducing a burthen wholly unnecessary. LORD MANSFIELD endeavoured to avail himself of this objection, in favour of the Duchess, whom it was his private wish to have saved from the exposure of a trial, and the ignominy of what he well knew must follow, a conviction. His Lordship thus delivered his sentiments: " But the  
 " arguments



“ arguments about the place of trial sug-  
 “ gest to my mind a question as to the  
 “ propriety of any trial at all. *Cui bono?*  
 “ What utility is to be obtained, suppose  
 “ a conviction be the result? The lady  
 “ makes your Lordships a *curtesy*, and you  
 “ return a *bow*.” This language, although  
 vehemently opposed by the Chancellor  
 BATHURST, yet considerably damped the  
 ardour of the prosecutors. The tenden-  
 cy of the observation was extremely per-  
 ceptible; and, aware of the private in-  
 fluence which Lord Mansfield had at the  
 time, it was apprehended that he might so  
 exert it, as to defeat, by some means or  
 other, the purpose aimed at. Here, then,  
 was the critical instant in which the Duchess  
 might have extricated herself. A hint was  
 privately conveyed to her, that the sum of TEN  
 THOUSAND POUNDS would satisfy every ex-  
 pectation, and put an end to the prosecution.

This

This hint was improved into an authoritative proposal, The Duchess was entreated by her friends to embrace the measure, but through a fatal confidence, either in her legal advisers, her own manœuvrings, or a commixture of both, she rejected the proposal with an air of insult. This was folly in the extreme ; and yet it was deserving pity, because it was folly misguided. From Dr. COLLIER, the Civilian, to Mr. WALLACE, the Counsel, the language uniformly held was, “ That the Duchess had not any “ thing to fear.” The late SERJEANT DAVY, who at first said, that “ the *case* “ lay in a *nutshell*, and that her Grace “ would inevitably be convicted,” on being introduced to Kingston House, afforded the following very remarkable instance of tergiversation. The Serjeant dined with the Duchess on a day when she received a letter from her Counsel, Mr. Wallace,

Wallace, then at Bath. The contents reviving her spirits, she communicated them to the company, with the following consolatory observation ; “ My heart is now at rest ; Mr. Wallace wishes for the trial, that he may give me joy of a triumph.” Serjeant DAVY, on this, said, “ If WALLACE knows your Grace’s case as well as I do, he will, I am confident, agree with me in opinion. I will forfeit my right hand as a man, and my reputation as a Lawyer, if your Grace has not less than nothing to fear.” The Earl of PETERBOROUGH, after dinner, took Mr. JACKSON, who happened to be of the party, aside, and facetiously asked him, “ Whether he knew the cause of the learned Serjeant’s sudden conversion ?” Mr. JACKSON pointed to an order for a *side of venison*, and some excellent *Madeira*, which were to be sent to the Serjeant’s villa ; and

He added, “ That a *twenty pound note* for  
 “ *every visit*, were arguments sufficient to  
 “ profelyte an accommodating mind.”

Under all these assurances of safety, the  
 Duchess assumed an indifference about the  
 business, which but ill accorded with her  
 situation. She talked of the absolute ne-  
 cessity of setting out for Rome ; affected to  
 have some material business to transact with  
 his Holiness the Pope ; and she took, in  
 consequence, every measure in her power  
 to accelerate the trial, as if the regular  
 pace of justice were not swift enough to  
 overtake her. She did not, however,  
 abandon her manœuvring. On the con-  
 trary, at the moment in which she had  
 claimed her privilege as a Peerefs, and pe-  
 titioned for a speedy trial, she was busied in  
 a scheme to get hold of the principal evi-  
 dence, Mrs. CRADOCK, and prevail on her



to quit the kingdom. A near relation of this woman was a deliverer of penny-post letters. He was spoken to, and he engaged to let the Duchess have an interview with Mrs. CRADOCK ; but her Grace was to be disguised, and to reveal herself only after some conversation. The stratagem was adopted. The DUCHESS changed her sex in appearance, and waited, at the appointed hour and place, without seeing either Mrs. CRADOCK, or the person who had promised to effect the meeting. The fact is that every minutia of this business had been communicated to the prosecutors, who instructed the letter-carrier to pretend an acquiescence in the scheme. Thus, baffled in a project which had a plausible aspect of success, the only measure left was the best arrangement of matters preparatory for the trial. On the *fifteenth* day of April, 1776, the business came on in West-

minster Hall. It was of five days \* continuance, and the principal object argued was, the admission, or not, of a sentence of the Spiritual Court, in a suit for jactitation of marriage, so as to stop the proof of a marriage, in an indictment for polygamy †. The judges deciding against the admission

\* On the fourth of these days, the *late Lady Harrington*, of amorous memory, being among other Peeresses, in her box, was presented by Mr. Evelyn Meadows, the real prosecutor of the Duchess, with some *flowers*. *Lady Harrington* thanked him for the compliment, and, in return said, “ *I hope in God I shall be able to present you shortly with the LAUREL.*” The same Lady on the first day of the trial, when the Duchess appeared at the bar, made use of this ejaculation: “ *The Devil confound her ! How brazen the wretch looks !*” This, from LADY HARRINGTON, was truly ludicrous.

† This was the point on which rested the whole of the case. The sentence of the Ecclesiastical Court, was the only thing which could be offered, on the part of the

admission of such a sentence, in bar to  
evidence,

the Ducheſs, as a plea in bar to evidence. If it were admiſſible in this ſhape, there remained a doubt, how far ſuch a ſentence ought to be of validity, provided it had been colluſively obtained. To have both theſe particulars reſolved into a certainty, the two following queſtions were ſubmitted to the Judges for their opinion :

*Fiſt.* “ Whether a ſentence of the Spiritual Court, “ againſt a marriage, in a ſuit for jaſtitation of marriage, is concluſive evidence ſo as to ſtop the Counſel “ for the Crown from proving the ſaid marriage, in an “ indictment for polygamy ?

*Second.* “ Whether, admitting ſuch ſentence to be “ concluſive upon ſuch indictment, the Counſel for “ the Crown may be admitted to avoid the effect of ſuch “ ſentence, by proving the ſame to have been obtained “ by fraud or colluſion ?”

The deciſion of the Judges, on both theſe queſtions, was ſubſtantiſhly as followeth. To the *fiſt* point propounded, the anſwer was, “ That the ground of the judicial powers “ poſſeſſed by the Eccleſiaſtical Courts, is merely of a ſpiritual conſideration, *pro correptione morum, et pro ſalute* “ *animæ ;*

evidence, the fact of the two marriages  
was

“ *anima* ; for the correction of morals, and for the salvation  
 “ of the soul. But the great object of temporal jurif-  
 “ diction is, the public peace, and crimes against the  
 “ public peace are wholly, and in all their parts, of tem-  
 “ poral cognizance—alone. The temporal courts alone  
 “ can expound the law, and judge of the crimes, and  
 “ its proofs ; in doing so, they must see with their own  
 “ eyes, and try by their own rules, that is, by the Com-  
 “ mon Law of the land. Besides, a sentence in a cause  
 “ of jactitation, has only a negative, and a *qualified ef-*  
 “ *fect*. It pronounceth, that the party boasting of a  
 “ marriage, has failed in his proof, and that the libellent  
 “ is free from all matrimonial contract, *as far as yet ap-*  
 “ *pears* ; leaving it open to new proofs of the same  
 “ marriage, in the same cause, or to any proofs of that  
 “ or any other marriage, in another cause ; and if such  
 “ sentence is no plea to a new suit there, and doth not  
 “ conclude the Court which pronounceth, it cannot  
 “ conclude a Court, which receives the sentence, from  
 “ going into new proofs to make out that, or any other  
 “ marriage. So that, admitting the sentence in its  
 “ full extent and import, it only proves, that *it did not*  
 “ *yet appear* that the parties were married, and not that  
 “ they *were not married at all* : and by the rule laid  
 “ down by Lord Chief Justice *Holt*, such sentence can  
 “ be



was most clearly proved, and a conviction,

“be no proof of any thing to be inferred by argument  
 “from it; and, therefore, it is not to be inferred, that there  
 “was no marriage, at any time or place, because the Court  
 “*had not then* sufficient evidence to prove a marriage at a  
 “particular time and place. That sentence and this  
 “judgment may stand well together, and both propo-  
 “sitions be equally true: It may be true, that  
 “the Spiritual Court *had not then* sufficient proof of  
 “the marriage specified; and, that your Lordships  
 “*may now*, unfortunately, find sufficient proof of some  
 “marriage.”

To the *second* point propounded, the Judges rested their opinion on the subsequent, among other forcible reasons. “But, if the sentence were direct, and  
 “decisive on the point, and as it stands, to be admitted as conclusive evidence on the Court, and  
 “not to be impeached from within; yet, like all  
 “other acts of the highest judicial authority, it is  
 “impeachable from without; although it be not  
 “permitted to shew that the Court was *mistaken*, it  
 “may be shewn that they were *mistled*. *Fraud* is an  
 “extrinsic collateral act, which vitiates the most solemn proceedings of Courts of Justice. Lord  
 “*Coke* says, it avoids all judicial acts, ecclesiastical  
 “or

viction, of course, followed \*. The  
 Duchefs was on her trial attended by  
 Mrs. EGERTON, whose husband was of  
 the

“ or temporal. *Collusion*, being a matter extrinsic of the  
 “ cause, may be imputed by a stranger, and tried by a  
 “ Jury, and determined by the Courts of Temporal  
 “ Jurisdiction. We (*the Judges*) are, therefore, una-  
 “ nimously of opinion :

*First*, “ That a sentence in the Spiritual Court against  
 “ a marriage, in a suit of jactitation of marriage, is not  
 “ *conclusive evidence*, so as to stop the Counsel for the  
 “ Crown proving the marriage, in an indictment for po-  
 “ lygamy.

“ But, *secondly*, admitting such sentence to be conclu-  
 “ sive upon such indictment, the Counsel for the Crown  
 “ may be admitted to avoid the effect of such sentence,  
 “ by proving the same to have been obtained by fraud  
 “ or collusion ”

\* The Duchefs being called to the bar, and inform-  
 ed of her conviction, by the *Lord High Steward*, she  
 delivered a paper, praying the benefit of the peerage,  
 according to the Statutes. On which the present Chan-  
 cellor, then *Attorney General*, displayed his command-  
 ing

the Bridgewater family ; Mrs. BARRINGTON, widow of General Barrington, a  
F 5 brother

ing powers, in a speech replete with legal learning, and directed to demonstrate, “ That a *Peerefs*, convicted as “ the prisoner had been, could, *on no other grounds*, “ avoid Judgment of Death, but by claiming the benefit of the Statute of the *Third and Fourth of William* “ and *Mary* ; which left her in a condition to be “ *burnt in the hand, or imprisoned.*” This occasioned the following question to be submitted to the Judges :

“ Whether a *Peerefs* convicted by her Peers, “ of a clergyable felony, is by law entitled to “ the benefit of the Statutes, so as to excuse “ her from capital punishment, without being burnt “ in the hand, or being liable to any imprisonment ?”

The *Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer*, having conferred with the rest of the Judges present ; delivered their unanimous opinion upon the said question, assigning also his reasons. The opinion was, “ That a *Peerefs* convicted of a clergyable “ felony, praying the benefit of the Statute, the *first* “ of

brother of the Peer of that name ; the late Doctor ISAAC SCHOMBERG, and the present Doctor WARREN. One extraordinary method the Duchefs took to fustain her fpirits ; which was to lofe a certain quantity of blood almoft every time in which fhe was ordered to withdraw from the bar.

The folemn bufinefs being concluded, the profecutors had a plan in embryo to confine the Countefs of BRISTOL (for fo, after conviction, fhe in reality was) to this country ; and to have her deprived of her perfonal property. A writ of “ *Ne exeat regno* ” was preparing, of which the Lady received private notice, and

“ of Edward VIth, is not only excufed from capital  
 “ punifhment, but ought to be immediately difcharged,  
 “ without being burnt in the hand, or liable to any impri-  
 “ fonment.”

being



being advised instantaneously to leave the kingdom, she caused her carriage to be driven about the most public streets of the metropolis ; invited a select party to dine at Kingston House, the better to cover her design ; while, in an hired post-chaise, she travelled to Dover. Mr. HARDING, the Captain of her yacht, was there, and he conveyed her in the first open boat that could be procured, to Calais. The *Hotel d'Angleterre*, was chosen as the place of residence, and, on her Grace entering the Court-yard, Mons. DESSEIN received her with more complaisance than cordiality ; for, in France, the conviction was understood to have deprived her of all her possessions, real and personal. DESSEIN, therefore, indicated his pity of her fate by a significant shrug of his shoulders. He was “ highly honoured in the choice she had made of his “ hotel ; but, *Mon Dieu!*---How unfortunate it

“ was

“ was, that he could not accommodate  
 “ her with a suite of rooms! Had he only  
 “ been apprised of her intention to do him  
 “ the favour! Now, a single apartment was  
 “ all the accommodation in his power.”

She was fatigued in body and mind. Rest, therefore, even in a room on the attic story, would have been the most welcome solacer in the bounty of Heaven to bestow.

While the DUCHESS, for so she must be still styled for the sake of uniformity in the narrative, was retired, DESSEIN contrived means to investigate the state of her finances, and being informed that she was still in the receipt of her estates, he, the morning after her arrival, brightened up his features, and was the happiest being on earth to acquaint her, that “ the company  
 “ who had occupied apartments suitable  
 “ in

“ in every respect *pour Madame la Duchesse*,  
 “ were gone to Paris, and consequently,  
 “ they were devoted to her use, if she  
 “ should so please.” This *obeisance* answered DESSEIN’s purpose. She remained at his *hotel* long enough to lend him a *thousand pounds*, when, being her debtor, he complained of her parsimony, and compelled her, by disrespectful treatment, to seek another abode. The money lent DESSEIN is not wholly repaid at this hour. The only accommodation which the DUCHESS could ever obtain was, to take the demand out in fire-wood. If a *pun* be excusable, this was a *burning* shame in Monsieur DESSEIN.

As YORICK justly observeth, “ They  
 “ *manage* these things *better* in *France*.”  
 The *politesse* of our Gallic neighbours is certainly a most powerful aid to their projects. Monsieur DESSEIN has that happy  
 composure

composure of features, bows so respectfully, and is, apparently, so much the devoted humble servant of every body, that it is not surprizing he should have wormed himself into the general favour of English travellers. The Duchess, with all her pretensions to the gift of penetrating characters, was grossly duped by the keeper of her *Hotel*; yet was the imposition so smoothly effected, that DESSEIN and her Grace never rencountered each other without parting the dearest friends in the world; she, with a gracious inclination of her head, only requesting it as a favour that more fire-wood might be sent in to lessen her demand; and he, with a semi-circular bow of his body assuring her that a Magazine was at her command. This reciprocity of deceit was practised whenever Calais became the occasional or the stationary residence, of the Duchess; and it being fore-  
seen



seen that such residence would be frequent, an habitation, affording some degree of comfort, was sought for, and obtained.

Monf. Cocove\* had formerly held a commanding post at Calais; he was in constitution, habits, and appearance, an Englishman. The habits of our country he had acquired by residing some time among us, and, during that residence, he had mixed with the first circles. The old Marquis of GRANBY had been his intimate friend and  
 associate.

\* This Gentleman was for many years, PRESIDENT of CALAIS; and, the only fault ever imputed to him, in that honourable station, was, *too great a partiality for the English*. If there were to be a favour extended to any individual of our nation, the *President of Calais* was sure to accompany that favour by some act of liberality originating from himself. MONSIEUR COCOVE died at his country seat, which is situated at a little distance from Calais, between that place and St. Omer; leaving a widow who had been the *best of wives*, and an amiable progeny who only contended in a virtuous struggle, who most should promote the happiness of the *best of mothers*. This lady is since dead. The offspring are living, and universally admired for their amiabilities of mind and person.

affociate. When the Duchefs fled to Calais, Cocove was fequestered at a little paternal feat within a few miles; reſtricted to that, as his place of reſidence, conformable to the uſage of France with reſpect to perſons of landed property who are involved. Cocove had an houſe in Calais, which his wife and family, amounting to three ſons, and four daughters, occupied. The Duchefs treated for the purchaſe of this houſe, and it was agreed to be fold her for one thouſand pounds, with permiſſion to the family to occupy one ſide of the quadrangle. The Duchefs took poſſeſſion; and, as her ordinary cuſtom was, ſhe began to pull the greateſt part of the old manſion about her ears, threw out a room with a bow window, which projected over the *privies* belonging to the ſoldiers' barracks; and that her viſitors might only indulge a ſtanding poſture, this ſaloon, as ſhe called it, was left without a chair.

a chair. The Cocove family next engaged her attention, and before she had seen the half of them, she promised to make them all happy. The girls she astonished with a sight of her diamonds, and her wardrobe; with the boys she conversed about the heroic deeds of her great-grandfather, throwing in occasional hints, that “ commissions in the  
 “ army would be comfortable things, and  
 “ particularly in the French service, which  
 “ was so highly honourable under the reign-  
 “ ing Monarch, for whom she had a prodigi-  
 “ ous regard. She loved the King of France,  
 “ and she was very confident he had a re-  
 “ gard for her.” “ *Sans doute, Madame la*  
 “ *Duchesse ; le Roi connus bien.*” “ Yes—  
 “ your King knows I love him. I have given  
 “ a proof of it in preferring to spend my for-  
 “ tune in his country, although *my dear*  
 “ *friend, the King of Prussia*, has given  
 “ me the warmest invitation to reside at  
 “ *Berlin.*” This sincere veneration for the

Gallic

Gallic Monarch would, with equal sincerity, have been transferred to the Cham of Tartary, if his dominion had been the chosen place of refuge.

As it was the lot of the Duchefs to be perpetually on the remove, some incidents had happened at Rome, of which ſhe received advice, which rendered it neceſſary for her once more to viſit that renowned city. In the Public Bank ſhe had depoſited her plate for ſafety, when ſhe ſet out for England; and in her palace ſhe had left a renegade Spaniſh Friar, and an Engliſh girl, whom ſhe had carried to Italy, on her laſt expedition. The girl was handſome, and had a ſenſe of prudence, aided by that prejudice againſt foreigners, which the lower orders of this, and of moſt other countries, poſſeſs. A CARDINAL, who, for the honour of the Holy See, ſhall be nameleſs, had frequently



frequently laid aside the pomp and sanctity of Spirituals, betraying a *thorn* in the *flesh*, stiled by *St. Paul* the "*Messenger of Satan*," with the buffetings of which his *Eminence* was well acquainted. His visits to the palace of the Dukes were frequent; the pretence always was, a something particular to communicate to her Grace, and a consequent inquisitiveness about her return. The FRIAR, however, smoked the CARDINAL, and the Cardinal, in return, was jealous of the Friar. The poor girl, who understood not a syllable of any other language than that of her country, found herself extremely embarrassed. The FRIAR knew English enough for an ordinary conversation, and, in the true style of a ghostly adviser, he cautioned the girl against the designs of the Cardinal. Whether from real dislike, or from the not being able to have a verbal intercourse, the overtures of the

the Cardinal were rejected, and whenever he came to the palace, she left him, if his Eminence so pleased, to make love to the Friar. Thus getting rid of a rival, the Friar plied his arts so successfully, as to occasion one bed to be the only necessary convenience for the two inmates of the palace to sleep in. Having accomplished this end, the Friar deemed it a pity that such of the moveables as were easily portable, should remain in an useless state; converted into cash, they might circulate to the benefit of society. Under an impression so charitable to the world, he walked off with what he could carry, beside disposing of quantities of articles to different purchasers. The poor girl was only left with a consolation, that what she had read in the Bible about "*Increase and multiply,*" was likely to be fulfilled by her. It was of these transactions the Duchess was informed by letters. The necessity of her immediate journeying to Rome was urgent, and

and she set out as soon as she could expedite the necessary preparations.

During her travel, an illness excepted, not any particular occurrence happened. On her arrival being known, CARDINAL ALBANI waited on her, to whom she communicated the particulars of the behaviour of the Friar, prudently reserving the circumstance of the attack made by one of the Cardinal's brotherhood, on the chastity of the girl. Her situation was not the present object of thought. The question was, how the property embezzled by the Friar could be re-obtained? The girl sobbed, shed tears in abundance, on her knees intreated forgiveness; but, with all this submissive penitence, she could scarcely obtain the attention of a moment. " You must have known  
 " the Friar broke open the escrutore.  
 " Where are the candlesticks? What! is  
 " all the linen gone? *By the living God* he  
 " has

“ has stripped the palace!” The girl,  
 whose *thriving* situation wholly engrossed  
 her thoughts, still pressed her suit.—“ In-  
 “ deed, your Grace, I did not consent—I  
 “ was fast asleep when the Friar came into  
 “ my room. He took hold ——” —“ I  
 “ wish he had hold of you this moment,  
 “ and that you were both in the gallies.  
 “ What is all your nonsense, to my pro-  
 “ perty? Could not you play the fool to-  
 “ gether, without stripping me? The dia-  
 “ mond buckle of my *dear Lord Duke!*  
 “ The devil confound the villain! Go  
 “ along, like a hussley as you are. Stay—  
 “ I’ll have you punished, unless you find  
 “ the rascally Friar.” Here a message of  
 condolence from his Holiness was notified,  
 and the messenger being ordered in, the  
 style was thus varied—“ What I have lost  
 “ is of considerable value; but, to take  
 “ advantage of a poor innocent young crea-  
 “ ture, is more distressful to me than the  
 “ trifles



“ trifles he has taken. *My dearest Lord*  
 “ left me an ample fortune, and I wish to  
 “ make others happy with it. This unfor-  
 “ tunate girl I took from a child, and meant  
 “ to have provided for her as a mother. I  
 “ forgive her, poor thing! My most hum-  
 “ ble and dutiful respects to his Holiness.  
 “ *Helas! (a sigh)* when I think on my  
 “ troubles, they almost overwhelm me.  
 “ With my *dear Duke (tears)* every happi-  
 “ ness was buried. But God is all-sufficient.  
 “ His Holiness knows not how I have been  
 “ persecuted; but I forgive my persecutors.  
 “ *Poor Bellisarius!* how ungenerously was  
 “ he treated! I often thought of him during  
 “ my persecution.” The messenger retiring,  
 the inquest as to what were lost, and the pro-  
 bability of recovery, were instantly resumed;  
 until all hope of re-obtaining the valuables  
 becoming visionary, to get the plate out of  
 the public bank, and transport it safely  
 from

from Italy, was the sole object of negociation, in which the Duchess proving successful, she returned to Calais, and the robbery of the Friar became one of her ordinary tales.

On the return of the Duchess from Rome, the expeditious communication between Calais and England afforded the earliest intelligence she could wish relative to the proceedings of her opponents. Their business was now, if possible, to set aside the will of the Duke of Kingston. There was not a probability of their succeeding in the attempt, but still the attempt was made. This kept alive the apprehension of danger in the mind of the Duchess ; and so long as that apprehension subsisted, it was necessary, in policy, to affect a particular regard for certain persons in England, who had the apparent power of rendering a service. The late Sir GEORGE HAYE was at that time DEAN of the ARCHES. Not more from the eminence of his situation  
than

than from the splendor of his abilities, his abilities, his rank was high in the public esteem. Doctor ISAAC SCHOMBERG had been a cotemporary with Sir George at Merchant Taylor's seminary. Through life they loved each other. The opinion of Sir George, as to the impeachability of the Duke of Kingston's will, was frequently wanted; and through the intermediation of Doctor Schomberg, this was obtained. Sir George Haye from the first ridiculed the attempt to set aside the will as a futility. Schomberg, however, desirous of obtaining the fullest confirmation of the case, pressed Sir George to dictate a few lines on the subject, in a letter, which he proposed to send to the Duchess.—“ Well, Isaac, (said Sir George) “ I will. Let the Duchess desire her *com-* “ *mon lawyers* to attack the *rock of Gibral-* “ *tar.*” Schomberg, on this, caused every consolatory assurance to be transmittted to the Duchess. She received it, and profes-

fed every feeling which gratitude could inspire. “ DOCTOR SCHOMBERG was an honourable character ! too honourable for this world ! The counterpart of her dear Lord in nobleness of soul ! She wished she could *make him happy* ! As a splendid return for his real anxiety to have her mind at ease, this was the gracious manner of her procedure :

One morning DOCTOR SCHOMBERG was waited on at his apartments in Conduit-street, and a present from the Duchess of Kingston was delivered him. This present was a ring, brilliantly encircled, the stone a deep blue, and the words “ *Pour l’ Amitie,*” on the stone. The intrinsic value was never once considered by Schomberg, it was the presumable tribute of gratitude which affected his mind. He wore the ring, and, in almost every company, proclaimed the donor.



donor. But a short portion of time elapsed, before one of the brilliants in the word "*Amitie*" fell out, as if the very mention of *friendship* by the Duchess, were sufficient to render the term *fragile*; to have a substitute replaced, a Jeweller was sent for. When he came, he looked first at the ring, then at Doctor Schomberg, and, on being asked, "When he could do what was necessary?" the Jeweller answered, "I hope you will not be offended, Sir, but it is really not worth your while to have any thing done; the middle stone is a composition, and the whole did not cost more, in Paris, than *six and thirty shillings!*" "Is that the case," said the Doctor, "then I will soon dispose of it." He first trampled the contemptible bauble under his feet, then flung it out of the window, saying, "*There goes Nobility.*"

Previous to her trial, the DUCHESS had formed a design to visit Peterburgh. A ship had been built for her, containing every splendid accommodation. There was a drawing-room, a dining-parlour, kitchen, and other conveniences. This ship attracted, as may be supposed, general observation; and the Russian Ambassador being given to understand that the whole had been intended as a conveyance of the Duchess, on a visit to so august a sovereign as the Empress of Russia, the politesse of Courts compelled an acknowledgment, on his part, that the compliment would be graciously received. But there was something more than the mere compliment of a visit. Her Grace had some pictures, of considerable value, which devolved to her on the demise of the Duke. These she had offered as a present to the Empress, who had deigned to accept them. The  
shipping

shipping them for Petersburgh, that they might be conveyed from where they ought to have remained, to whither they should not have been sent, had occasioned as many conferences between the Duchess and the Russian Ambassador, as would have been requisite to adjust the differences of Europe. At last, however, a cargo of pictures, and other valuable articles, cleared the river, and arrived safe at Petersburgh. The Empress disposed of them as accorded with her fancy, and her Ambassador was charged, in her name, to notify her pleasure. The Duchess, in this, was a copyist of the Eastern customs. Her presence was accompanied by a present, the better to ensure a favourable reception.

To convey her Grace to Petersburgh, the ship which had been built for the purpose, was

was ordered to Calais. It arrived there, and HARDING, the commander of her yacht, was considered as the Captain. In that capacity he superintended the preparations, and did every thing requisite in a man of honesty. An obstruction, however, arose, and that of a serious nature: the American war subsisted. Under what colours should the Duchess sail, so as to be the surest of protection? CUNNINGHAM,\* an American marine adventurer, had just taken one of the Holland packets. Doctor FRANKLIN, then at Paris, was surrounded by a swarm of his countrymen, who only wished for

\* This man was merely an instrument. The project of capturing the Packet, was suggested by a *Mr. Carmichael*, an American assistant to *Doctor Franklin*, and afterwards "*Charges des Affaires*," from the United States, at Madrid. The packet which Cunningham was directed to take, had a quantity of specie on board. *Cunningham*, by an Irish blunder, let that packet escape, and captured another which had only a cargo of passengers. Thus the object was defeated.

commis-



commissions to rove about the Channel. The intention of the Duchess to embark, could not be secreted, nor the time of her sailing. The capture of her ship, was considered as an enterprize worthy adoption. It was supposed, that any sum demanded, would be paid for her ransom. Apprised that such idea prevailed, the Duchess applied, by letter, to the French Minister, soliciting protection under the colours of France. Her request being granted, Captain HARDING was informed of her intentions to hoist the French flag, and have her ship manned by French sailors. He had served in the British navy, had distinguished himself in action, and could not relish the measure. The Duchess soothed him, and he complied with reluctance. French sailors were then procured, but no sooner were they engaged for the voyage, than they threw an obstacle in the way. They would only be  
 com-

commanded by a French captain. There was not an alternative. One *Le Fevre* offered, and was accepted; but his acceptance and nomination rendered the situation of HARDING too mortifying to be endured; in consequence of which he resigned his employ under the Duchess, quitted Calais, for Dover, where his family resided, and did not long survive, what he felt as an insult, considering the fidelity with which he had discharged his duty to the Duchess. He it was who had been entrusted to convey her personal property, of the greatest value, out of England, and afterwards from Rome; his final reward was, to have the *master* of a *fishing* boat appointed his Captain.

On her proposed voyage to Petersburg, the Duchess was to be accompanied by several

veral persons, besides domestics, who were collectively to form a suite proper for an exalted personage, about to visit a sovereign power. The arrangement of this suite depending, of course, on the will of the Duchess, a whimsical assemblage of characters were blended. The Captain and Sailors of the ship being Frenchmen and *Roman Catholics*, a Chaplain of their language and persuasion was required, to perform the pious offices necessary for the welfare of their souls. To be supplied in this particular, the Duchess dispatched a letter to Paris, soliciting a Lady to recommend an Ecclesiastic, proper for the purpose. Among the different orders it was not a difficult matter to meet with a Priest of the *Order of Necessity*; and, it being probable that such an one only would embark on so singular an expedition, the choice fell on Monsieur

L'Abbe SECHAND \*. Highly flattered by his appointment, a messenger was dispatched to Calais, with information that the *Abbe* would set out for that place immediately. The Duchess, to whom a new face, and a novel adventure, afforded great delight, received the glad tidings with a joyful countenance; imparting to every visitor the elevated ideas she had formed of a person, whom *she had never seen*, and, for whose transcendent abilities she vouched, in a most authoritative style,

\* This gentleman, after scrambling his way, as it were, from Peterburgh to France, soon afterwards came to London, and now resides in the vicinity. His claim on the Duchess, like that of most other persons who had the meritorious pretension of relying on *her promises*, is not yet settled, and most probably it never will. When pressed to adjust it, she always asserted that she had paid him; but, he put the matter fairly to issue, by saying, that if she could produce a voucher for the payment of a single *sous*, he would abandon his demand. This she was not able to do.

without



without being morally certain that his mental endowments exceeded those of a common mechanic. At last, *Monsieur P'Abbe* arrived; for the sake of convenience, not much troubled with baggage, the *Diligence* being his carriage, and a violin his travelling companion. As this gentleman had the care of the souls of the Captain and mariners committed to his charge, to Mr. Foster was entrusted the direction of the Duchess in spirituals. Two women, as attendants, a *coachman at sea*, and a footman *in a cabin*, compleated the marine suite, with which the Duchess sailed for Peterburgh. To say that she was grossly flattered on undertaking the expedition, would only be saying, that she was supposed to abound in wealth; for where is the rich without a flatterer? The voyage of the Duchess was compared to the expedition of *Cleopatra*; a *Marc Antony* only was wanting to render the comparison perfect.

Favoured

Favoured by a wind which blew as the wishes of the Duchess inclined, she arrived at *Elfsneur* in twelve days from the time of her leaving Calais; and, delaying as little as circumstances would permit, on her passage, she soon reached Petersburg. Her arrival being announced, her reception was certainly favourable\*, the Empress dispensed

\* This favourable reception was caused by various concomitant circumstances. To be received, if possible, by some crowned Head, was an object desirable, as the only means of relieving the Duchess from the marked disgrace which her trial and conviction had affixed on her. The Court of Russia was chosen as the most distant; as the less likely to have the real character of the lady bared to inspection; and where considerable presents of *pictures* would be more acceptable to the Sovereign, in proportion as the arts were in a less advanced state of perfection. Accordingly, not only the Empress, but personages of the greatest influence, were complimented by the Duchess. One instance, and an anecdote accompanying it, will exemplify the views and liberality of the donor.

dispensed with public forms, the interview between her Majesty and the Duchess being at

*Count Chernichoff* was presented to the Duchess as an exalted character, to whom she ought, in policy, to pay her particular *devoirs*. She felt the force of the representation, and sent him *two pictures*. As little skilled in painting, as in music, she was a total stranger to the value of these pieces. They happened to be *originals*, by *Raphael*, and *Claude Lorrain*. The Count was soon apprized of this; and on the arrival of the Duchess at Petersburg, he waited on her Grace; professed his thankfulness for the present, at the same time assuring the Duchess, "That the pictures were estimated at a value, " in Russian money, amounting to *ten thousand pounds* " English." The Duchess, who the moment before he let this secret escape from his lips, had arranged her features with a smile of complacency, instantly changed colour, and could, with the utmost difficulty, veil her chagrin. She told the *Count*, "that she had other " pictures, which she should consider as an honour were " he to accept them. That the two paintings in his " possession, were particularly the favourites of her *de-* " *parted Lord*; but that the Count was extremely gra- " cious in permitting them to occupy a space in his " palace, until her mansion was properly prepared for " decoration." This manœuvre did not succeed. The

Count

at the country palace, appropriated to the purposes of seclusion. The novelty of an English *lady*, braving the billows of the Baltic, and defying, as it were, the boisterous elements of the North, to pay a compliment to the reigning Sovereigness, excited admiration in many, curiosity in all. This very curiosity and admiration were sufficient for the Duchess; gratifying her vanity, they compensated her toils. Still more. The Empress assigned a mansion for her residence. Her ship was commanded under the Government care; and

Count has the pictures at this moment; and the Duchess, in her *will*, has actually introduced an *history of the manner* in which they became possessed by Count Chernichoff; referring, at the same time, to the testimony of a Mr. Moreau, in proof of the paintings having been only committed to the care of the Count, *in trust*. Here is a *trait*, and a singular one it is, sufficient to mark the character of the heroine, whose narrative is the subject of these pages.



an hurricane arising which occasioned it to suffer considerable damage, it was repaired by express order of the Empress. Here was happiness, if happiness for a mind at variance with itself, could be found on earth. Yet, this marked favour of the Empress could not entirely satisfy the Duchess. She was, and she felt herself to be a alien. The English Ambassador could only be complaisant to her in private\*.

\* At that time *Sir James Harris*; who, because only externally civil, the Duchess affected to contemn, for the parsimonious manner in which he entertained the factory. *Lady Harris* did not, of course, escape an oblique censure, when opportunity of casting it occurred. *Sir James*, at the Court of Peterburgh, was in high estimation. That, as an able representative of Sovereign power, and a profound politician, he merited esteem, his late conduct, as Ambassador to the United States of Holland, hath abundantly evidenced. By being ennobled, he hath only obtained the honours he deserved.

She,

She, therefore, began to inquire, whether possession might not entitle her to command that respect, for which, at present, she was merely an eleemosynary debtor. There are ladies at the Court of Petersburg, who wear the *picture* of the *Empress*, as the ensign of an order. The Duchess was flattered, that landed property only was wanting to introduce her as one of this order. The *Empress* was her friend; what other interest could she desire? The hint was sufficient. She purchased an estate near Petersburg, for about *twelve thousand pounds*; gave it the name of *Chudleigh*, and, having executed her part of the agreement, which always was to pay, and leave others to enjoy, she pushed her interest to be honoured with the order. The answer to her application for ever blasted her hopes. It was an invariable rule

rule that *foreigners* could not be admitted.—What was to be done with the estate? Beside catching fish, and cutting down wood, it promised not to turn to any advantageous account. The Duchess, however, ever disposed to be misled when flattered by following her own inclination, was induced to believe, that a *fortune*, which she did not want, might be obtained by a means which she had no occasion to use, which was, the erection of works *for making BRANDY*. This was a whimsical transition of ideas, and such as could not easily be reconciled by an ordinary mind. A distiller of spirits, instead of the wearer of a pendent order of the picture of an Empress!

This disappointment in ambition, and, a final dislike of the distillery project, occasioned

occasioned a resolution to return to Calais. Disputes in the household had also arisen, which caused this resolution to be more determined than ordinary. The salary of Mr. FOSTER, a pittance for a man of learning, being only *one hundred pounds a year*, was in arrears. Years and merit pleaded in vain. A trifle was the subject of dispute, and the Empress being informed of it, offered poor FOSTER a retreat for life, and he quitted the Duchess with this sarcasm, in the Spartan style, "*I am old, not mean.*" SECHAND next broke forth with vehemence. He had received more promises than there are numbers in the lottery, and not one of them had produced a prize. His salary was in arrears, and payment was formally demanded; agents on both sides interfered, but without effecting any thing. The  
Abbe,



Abbe, therefore, was left to seek his redress in France, and to get thither as well as his fortunate stars would assist him.

The Duchess, quitting Petersburg, left an English journeyman carpenter\*, whom she had made the steward of her household, to transact her affairs. At her *brandy-making* estate, in the country, another character, of similar description, as to lowness, was stationed; and on her route to Calais, she picked up a travelling Colonel in the Imperial service,

\* This man was picked up, like most of the inferior orders of her household, by that species of accident which always recommended vagabonds to her notice. By trade an ordinary carpenter; by her ridiculous whim converted into the managing steward of a palace, and, in her absence from Petersburg, entrusted with the care of personal property, of immense value.

who

who only wanted to get to his wife and children in Vienna ; but not being in haste to see them, took a French leave of the Duchess, borrowed one of her watches, merely that he might not be at a loss as to the hour of the day, and taking a couple of rings, the brilliancy of which would remind him of the charms of the real owner.

Returning once more to Calais, a considerable portion of time was engrossed by the Duchess in relating to her admiring auditors each particular concerning the very gracious manner in which the Empress had deigned to receive her. A present from her Imperial Majesty of an estate situated on the *Neva* \*, was enlarged on

\* This estate includes a tract of land of considerable value ; and it was the more peculiarly calculated for the  
Duchess,

on with all the circumlocutory eloquence, of which the relator was capable. The purchase\* also of the estate near Petersburg, which abounded in *vassals* not daring to approach the upper petticoat of their mistress, without first kissing the fringe, in a posture of genuflection, afforded a subject for astonishment to those who despised all compulsory subjection. Yet complaisance was due, and, in consequence, the tale of vanity was never interrupted. The empress was admitted to be the *dearest friend* whom the Duchess had experienced. She was allowed even

Duchess, as it conferred a kind of sovereignty on her over the poor inhabitants, who are considered as absolute property, vested in the territorial proprietor.

\* This estate cost the Duchess about *twenty-five thousand pounds* English money.

to love her, better than any favourite who might be selected, as the object of regard, by a Sovereigness, less a model of self-denying virtue than her Imperial Majesty of Russia. Not a scruple of faith was abated, in the credence given to every sentence which the Duchess advanced respecting her intimacy with the Empress. One thing is certain : At an entertainment given by the Duchess to the Empress, *one hundred and forty* of her own domestics attended, and the whole service was of plate. The presence of so august a personage, and the manner of her reception, are unquestionable proofs of benignity on one part, ostentation on the other.

The will of his Grace of Kingston receiving every confirmation which the  
 I Courts



Courts of Justice could give \* ; to dissipate, rather than properly expend, the income

\* This will was executed on the *fifth* day of *July*, 1770. The following are the extracts which relate to the *Duchess* : “ I do, by this my will, ratify and confirm a settlement, which I made of the annual sum, or yearly rent charge, of *four thousand pounds*, on my *wife Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston* ; and that the said sum shall be unto, and to the use of the said *Elizabeth, Duchess of Kingston, MY WIFE*, and her assigns, for and during the term of her natural life, *in case she so long continues my widow, and unmarried, and no longer*. And my said wife shall be permitted, *during her widowhood*, to receive and take the whole yearly rents, and profits, of all the manors, lands, and hereditaments, before devised, in full satisfaction, recompence, and discharge of, and for so much of the said annual sum, or yearly rent charge of *four thousand pounds*, as shall grow due during her widowhood ; *but in case my said wife shall determine her widowhood during her life*, then I give and devise the same to *Charles Meadows*, second son of *Philip Meadows*.

“ ALSO, I give and bequeath to my said wife, *Elizabeth Duchess of Kingston*, all my furniture, pictures,

income of his estates, appeared to be the ruling principle of life. The house at Calais was not sufficient for the purpose of inviting perplexities ; a mansion, at a place called *Mont Marthe* \*, near Paris,

“ tures, plate, jewels, china, arrears of rent, and all  
 “ other my effects and personal estate, of what nature or  
 “ kind soever, for her own proper use absolutely, and as,  
 “ and for her own goods, chattels, and effects, for ever-  
 “ more.”

This express restriction, as to a continuance in a state of widowhood, although highly displeasing to the Duchess, was yet her absolute salvation ; for, so open was she to the grossest adulation, that any foreign *Knight of the Post*, plying her well with flattery, might have led her a willing captive to the altar of Hymen. She endeavoured to secrete the circumstance of her inability to marry, always affecting the greatest dislike of the conubial state.

\* The situation of this house is extremely pleasant, being to *Paris* what *Hamstead* is to *London*. The Duchess was to have paid for the house about *nine thousand pounds* in the whole.

was

was pitched on, and the purchase of it negotiated in as short a time as the Duchess could desire. There were only a few obstacles to enjoyment, which were not considered until the purchase was completed. The house was in so ruinous a condition, as to be in momentary danger of falling. The land was more like the field of the slothful, than the vineyard of the industrious. All these apparent evils became realized to the optics of the Duchess, only after she had possessed her wishes, and found them, as most of her wishes were, productive of trouble. A lawsuit with the owner of the estate was the consequence of the agreement. The Duchess went again to Peterburgh, and returned to France, before it finished ; and it was the manner in which this suit was adjudicated, which proved the ultimate cause of her death.

Beside this purchase in France, another was made by the Dukes, the scale of which was truly grand. The brother of the French Monarch was the owner of a domain, according, in every respect, with his dignity. This was the territory of *Saint Affise*, pleasantly distanced from Paris, abounding with game of every different species, and rich in all the possible luxuriant adornment of nature. The mansion was fit for the brother of a King. It afforded *three hundred beds*. The value of such an estate was too considerable to be expected in one payment; she, therefore, agreed to discharge the whole of the sum demanded, which was *fifty-five thousand pounds*, by instalments. It is sometimes easier to agree, than fulfil. The Dukes found this to be her case in the present instance. How  
was



was it possible to give the half of a plumb, without the value of a cherry-stone in possession? *Sixteen thousand pounds* were the utmost amount of the annual rents of the Duchefs. Ready money she had none; it was a commodity in which she seldom abounded. To expedient recourse was had to make good the instalment, cash was borrowed of *Messrs. Drummond*, and a few valuables were lodged as securities for the debt; by this means one payment was made good \*.

If it be asked, for whom this estate, thus purchased under every inconvenience, was actually intended? The proper answer re-

\* *Twenty-five thousand pounds* have been actually paid, in part of the purchase money, for this territory. The second instalment is, at this moment, due. The annual income of Saint Assise, is estimated at near *three thousand pounds*.

turned would be, that to the career of vanity there is not an end ; and, whether that passion be gratified by the expenditure, or the hoard of money, is matter of total indifference, the sordidness of the passion continuing the same. It being necessary, however, to assign a little portion of reason for a great degree of extravagance, the recent reconciliation which had taken place between the Duchess and the *nephew* of her “ *dearest Duke,*” afforded a plea. The purchase, on the part of the Duchess, was a good one.—There were not only game, but *rabbits* in plenty, and finding them to be of a superior quality and flavour, the Duchess, during the first week of her possession, had as many killed and sold, as brought her *three hundred guineas*. Thus, at Petersburg, she was a distiller of brandy \* ; at Paris, a *rabbit merchant*.

Thus

\* By permission of the Empress, one of the  
Russian

Thus proceeding from enterprize to enterprize, the hour arrived in which the Duchefs would not be permitted a longer refident of our lower world. She was at dinner when her fervants received the intelligence of a fentence refpecting the houfe near Paris, having been awarded againft her. The fudden communication of the news caufed an agitation of her whole frame. She flew into a violent paffion, and, in the agitation of her mind and body, fhe burft an

Ruffian eftates purchafed by the Duchefs was called *Chudleigh*; and about ten miles from this place, fhe built an *Inn*, for the reception and accommodation of ftrangers. Here, a liquor, which the Ruffians call *watkeq*, was fold. It is made from *barley*, mixed with certain *plants*, and, when diftilled, the fumes of it are of the moft intoxicating kind. The project of the Duchefs was, to have made the liquor on her own eftate, and to have fupplied the Inn with it. The Ruffian names of her territory are, *Willa* and *Acoff*.

internal

internal blood-vessel; even this, however, she appeared to have surmounted, until a few days afterwards, on the morning of the 26th of August; when, about to rise from her bed, a servant who had long been with her, endeavoured at dissuasion. The Duchess addressed her thus: “ I am not very well, but I *will* rise.” On a remonstrance being attempted, she said, “ At your peril disobey me; I will get up, “ and walk about the room. Ring for the “ Secretary to assist me. She was obeyed, dressed, and the Secretary entered the chamber. The Duchess then walked about; complained of thirst, and said, “ I could “ drink a glass of my fine Madeira, and “ eat a slice of toasted bread. I shall be “ quite well afterwards; but let it be a “ large glass of wine.” The attendant reluctantly brought, and the Duchess drank the wine. She then said, “ I am perfectly

“ fectly



“ feftly recovered; I knew the Madeira  
 “ would do me good. My heart feels  
 “ oddly. I will have another glafs.”

The fervant here obferved, that fuch a quantity of wine, drank in the morning, might intoxicate rather than benefit. The Duchefs perfifted in her orders, and the fecond glafs of Madeira being produced, ſhe drank that alfo, and pronounced herſelf to be charmingly indeed. She then walked a little about the room, and afterwards ſaid,  
 “ I will lie on the couch. I can ſleep, and  
 “ after a ſleep, I ſhall be entirely recover-  
 “ ed.” She fat on the couch, a female having hold of each hand. In this ſituation, ſhe ſoon appeared to have fallen into a found ſleep, until the woman found her hands colder than ordinary; an affright enfued; other domeſtics were rang for, and the Duchefs was found to have expired, as the wearied labourer ſinks into the arms of reſt.

Thus

Thus died ELIZABETH CHUDLEIGH, actually Countess of Bristol, and, by the curtesy of foreign nations, styled DUCHESS of KINGSTON. She was a woman, the leading features of whose character are more discoverable from a review of her conduct, than from any delineation in the power of the pen to give. If she might be allowed to know herself, her own description of the mutability of her nature, should pass for the truth. Her words were these : “ I should detest myself, if I were “ *two hours in the same temper.*” What she said, she verified ; for she was alternately changing from humour to humour. This instability it was which, in the early part of life, occasioned her to be surrounded more with admirers, than friends ; and from the hour of her conviction, to the moment of her death, she had not one friend attached to her from a principle of cordial

dial esteem. The Empress of Russia was much disposed to favour her ; but, after the novelty of the meeting was over, there was even too much of sameness in the interviews with her Majesty, to be endured. Those to whom the Duchess shewed any thing like steadiness, were companions of her own selection, and she was ever sure to err most grossly in her choice. Her benefits, and her friendships, were bestowed on the unworthy. Of the latter assertion, the following anecdote is a proof :

In one of her peregrinations, the Duchess met with a person, habited as a pilgrim. His figure was a good one. In his eye there was penetration, and in the whole of his countenance there was marked expression. He was much inclined to cultivate an intimacy with the Duchess ; but he rather chose to correspond, than converse with her. This arose

from a consciousness of a brilliancy of style of which he was master ; and, instantly perceiving how open to flattery the lady was, he thought it could be more delicately conveyed in an epistolary way. He carried his point. Left her Grace, when she strongly solicited him to remain with her. The correspondence commenced. The letters teemed with professions of admiration of so illustrious a character as the Duchess. She was more than woman ! The wonder of the age ! and deserving celebrity to the end of time ! This incense was the more acceptable, because offered by a total stranger. Her Grace became enamoured with the *pilgrim*, and, as there was something of mystery in his manner and garb, she was solicitous to have the whole explained. This favour, however, was denied, and the only thing which she could obtain was, an appointment to meet her at a future time.

The



The correspondence, in the interim, continued ; and the letters were in the same adulatory vein. The appointed time arrived ; and the Duchefs, instead of a *Pilgrim*, met an *Abbé*. It then became necessary to throw the veil a little aside. The stranger gave an account of himself, and thus ran his story : That he was by birth an *Albanian Prince*. That he had travelled through Europe, under different disguises, and had only formed attachments with the most exalted personages. At Berlin, Prince Henry of Prussia had honoured him with his intimacy ; at Rome, most of the Cardinals were his familiars ; their Neapolitan Majesties particularly esteemed him ; and with the Emperor of Germany, he was most intimate ! This style was the very thing. It operated like a charm. The name of the stranger was required ; and he announced his travelling one to be “ WORTA.” Who

*Worta*

*Worta* really was, the *Duchess* never inquired. She took it on trust that he was a very great man ; and as for his honesty, it was a quality entirely out of the question. The diamond box was exhibited to *WORTA*, and he admired as the *Duchess* directed. A ring of value was presented him, and he being a *prince*, it was deemed very gracious in him to accept it. At last, the object in view was disclosed. *WORTA* having satisfied himself with the visits he had made to the different Courts of the reigning Powers, proposed returning to his own country ; and could his bed be honoured with a partner like the *Duchess*, a scene of connubial felicity would be completed. To this language the *Duchess* listened with infinite pleasure ; and, had there not been an unsurmountable obstacle, she actually would have given her hand and fortune to an adventurer. This *WORTA*

very

very lately committed several forgeries in Holland, and being apprehended, he dispatched himself by a dose of poison\*.

As

\* WORTA, whoever he might be, was entitled to praise, as a man of talents. During the contest between Great Britain and America, he wrote several little pieces, in support of what he termed "The honourable cause of *les pauvres Americaines*." Beside this subject, there is a small tract by WORTA, entitled, "*L'Horoscope Politique*." In this he extols the character of Prince Henry of Prussia, whom he styles his dear and intimate friend. There is also another small production, containing a selection of Poetic Pieces, professedly translated from a Turkish author, but really written by WORTA. His language, in prose, is energetic in the extreme; in poetry, it is mellifluous, and full of tenderness. He had certainly strong feelings, and a very superior understanding. To each of his publications, there is an engraving of himself prefixed, which is encircled by stars, and rays, from a small represented sun, darting on the top of his head. He was, altogether, a most extraordinary character.

As a contrast of this instance of imposture, and credulity, there was a *real* Prince, who made the Duchess an offer of his hand, and that after an attachment which had subsisted twenty years. On a visit to the Court of Saxony, the Duchess first met PRINCE RADZIVIL; an illustrious personage, who had pretensions to the Crown of Poland \*. This high character lived in a style of dignified splendor, which excited the admiration of those who knew not the amount of his immense revenues. The Duchess, struck with the grandeur of his state, practised every ingratiating art which might attract esteem. In this, she proved so successful,

\* This illustrious Pole is now living, and about sixty-five years of age.



as to engage the heart of the Prince in her favour. This was all she wanted ; for, the consequences of the engagement were, magnificent presents, and a correspondence carried on, during a succession of years. When the Duchess was about to make a second visit to Peterburgh, proposing to travel thither by land, she signified, in a letter to PRINCE RADZIVIL, her intention of taking his dominions in her route. The Prince, the force of whose affection had not been abated by time, received the determination as an announcement of his approaching happiness. The place of meeting was fixed, and, as there was something singularly romantic in the style in which the interview was conducted, a description of it, as detailed by a foreign gentleman, who was of the party, may not prove unenter-  
taining to the reader.

BERGE,

BERGE, a village in a duchy belonging to PRINCE RADZIVIL, was assigned for the rendezvous. It is situated about forty miles from *Riga*. The Duchess being there arrived, was waited on by an officer in the retinue of the Prince, who was commissioned to inform her Grace, that his master proposed to dispense with the ceremonials of rank, and visit her as a friend. The next morning was the time specified for this visit taking place. In the interim, the Duchess was entreated to permit herself to be escorted to an hotel, ten miles distant, whither the Prince had dispatched his own cooks, and other attendants, to wait on her Grace. The next morning, the *visit, without ceremony*, took place, and thus was it conducted. PRINCE RADZIVIL came with forty carriages, each drawn by six horses; and the different vehicles contained his nieces, the ladies of his principality, and  
other

other illustrious characters. In addition to these, there were six hundred horses led in train, a thousand dogs, and several boars ; a guard of Hussars completed the suite. Such an assemblage, in a country surrounded by wood, gave an air of romance to the interview, which was still more heightened by the manner in which the Prince contrived to amuse his female guest. He made two feasts, and they were ordered in the following style. The Prince had caused a village to be erected, consisting of forty houses, all of wood, and fancifully decorated with leaves and branches. These houses formed a circle ; in the middle of which, three spacious rooms were erected, one for the Prince, a second for his suite, and a third for the repast. Entering the village, in the way to the rooms, all the houses were shut, and the inhabitants appeared to have retired to rest.

The

The entertainment, at the rooms, opened with splendid fireworks, on an adjoining piece of water, and two vessels encountered each other in a mock engagement. The feast succeeded.—Every thing was served on plate, and sumptuous were the dishes. The Duchess, who was fascinated by a reception so superb, entered with all the exhilaration of spirits into the festivity of the evening; and amused the company with the following song.

“ DANS mon petit réduit,

“ Je vis a mon aise,

“ Je nai qu’une table, et un lit,

“ Un verre, et une chaise.

“ Mais je m’en sert chaque jour,

“ Pour caresser tour à tour,

“ Ma peinte et ma mie au guet,

“ Ma peinte et ma mie.”



The feast being ended, PRINCE RADZIVIL conducted the Dukes to the village, the houses of which were shut before, and on a sudden they were converted into forty open shops, brilliantly decorated, and containing the richest commodities of different kinds. From these shops the Prince selected a variety of articles, and presented them to the Dukes. A magnificent topaz, rings, boxes, trinkets of all descriptions, composed the gifts\*. The company then returned to the rooms, which were thrown into one, and a ball was opened by Prince Radzivil and the Dukes. The minuets and dances being concluded, the Company quitted the ball-room, and in an instant it was in a blaze;

\* The Dukes, through life, had been accustomed to receive presents; and, a great part of her personal property was acquired in this manner.

combustible matter having been previously disposed throughout every part of the building. The people of the village were seen dancing round the fire. This entertainment, which is unexaggerated in the description, was supposed to have cost PRINCE RADZIVIL, at a moderate computation, *five thousand pounds*.

His Highness ended not here. At a country seat, ten miles from *Niceiffuis*, his favourite town, he gave a second feast to the Dukes. This feast was followed by a boar hunt; for the purpose of which his dogs had been brought. The hunt was in a wood, at night. A regiment of Hussars, with lighted torches in their hands, formed a circle; within which were hunters, also with torches. The boar, thus surrounded by fire, was intimidated, and, after the usual sport, he fell a victim to his pursuers.

pursuers. At this hunt attended a numerous party of the Polish nobility. During fourteen days, the time of the Duchess's continuance with Prince Radzivil, she dined and slept in different houses belonging to the Prince. As the retinue moved from place to place, they, on every third or fourth day, met a camp, formed of the Prince's own guard. Travelling at night from *Niceiffuis*, the roads were illuminated; guards accompanied as escorts, and, on the arrival of the Duchess, at the different towns belonging to the duchy of the Prince, the Magistrates waited on her with their gratulations, and the cannon were fired. Here was transporting satisfaction! and yet, such was the oddity of the Duchess, so unique was she in character, mind, and feeling, that at the moment of her being complimented with a *feu de joye*, she only thus expressed her sentiments

timents of the princely treatment: “ He  
 “ may fire as much as he pleases, but he  
 “ shall not hit my mark!” These were  
 her own words; the commentary on them  
 is obvious.

Beside this extraordinary display of magnificence, the Duchess, during her residence in Poland, had also the honour to be entertained by one of the first characters in the theatre of the world. This was **COUNT OGINSKI\***; of whom the late King of Prussia had so exalted an opinion, that he dispatched a letter to him, with the following superscribed orders: “ This  
 “ is to be forwarded to the *Ornament of*  
 “ *Human Nature!*” Such a compliment,

\* *Count Oginski* is now alive, and universally revered.



from a Sovereign who was not easily mistaken in characters, must have been highly flattering. But it did not exceed the merits of the COUNT; he was great, in every sense of the word. Beside being the munificent rewarder of talents, and the universal succourer of the distressed, his accomplishments were of the most endearing kind. At a concert which he gave the Dukes, he performed on six different instruments. His establishment for musical entertainments cost him *fifty thousand ducats a year*; about twenty-five thousand pounds of our money. He had a theatre, in which plays, in the French, German, and Polish languages, were acted. Horses he had from the remotest countries; one, which he shewed the Dukes, was brought him from Jerusalem. With LOUIS the XVth he had lived on terms of intimacy, residing nine years at the Court of France. He painted inimitably; and, among other articles, the Duke saw

saw

saw a piece of his execution, which originated from the following incident: LOUIS the XVth and the Count were walking in a garden, and the French Monarch broke off a branch of an apple-tree, in high blossom, and throwing it at the Count, he said, "OGINSKI, you must paint that for me." The Count obeyed; and the demise of the King happening before the picture was finished, it remained in the possession of the Count. At the mansion of this Nobleman, the Duchess continued a few days; and PRINCE RADZIWIL accompanying her there, an emulation seemed to prevail who most should shew her a marked attention\*. She was, however,

\* For the uncommon kindness shewn the Duchess by *Prince Radziwil*, she *professed* the greatest gratitude. A patriarchal age of thankfulness would not be long enough to discharge the obligation! At Petersburg,

however, shackled, as it were, in mind. There was sameness even in princely splendor, and sameness to her was ever disgusting. An *Aventurier*, like WORTA, could have succeeded, where a Prince like RADZIVIL failed of his point\*. The

an opportunity occurred of making a partial return for the favours received. It was as follows :

A favourite niece of Prince Radzivil married an officer in the Russian service, with whom she had fallen in love. To obtain his promotion in the army, the happy pair (for the happiness of reciprocal affection was their lot) went to Petersburg, and there the husband lost, at play, about seven thousand pounds, one thousand of which he paid ; but, distressed for the remainder of the sum, the niece of Prince Radzivil solicited the Duchess for a loan to the amount ; which she absolutely refused, pleading distress ; although she abounded in money, and was in high credit.

\* In so heterogeneous a character as that of the lady who is the subject of this detail, it is difficult to discriminate the propensities, and pronounce how far they are

one was a fixed, the other an eccentric character; and eccentricity, in every variation of form or action, accorded most forcibly with her feelings.

The actuating influence of this eccentricity it was, which too generally

are influenced by any genuine motive, or passion. The Duchefs had an apparent attachment to a Polish Bishop, the *Bishop of Wilna*. She also, when at Rome, discovered something more than friendship for the *Patriarch of Jerusalem*. The Bishop of *Wilna* first saw the Duchefs at *Rome*. He is a most amiable character; but perhaps it was more the vanity of inconsistency, than any real affection, which actuated the Duchefs in her apparent tenderness. To contemn the offers of *Prince Radziwil*, whom she actually might have married, and have had the loss of her fortune abundantly compensated, and to desire an union where it could not be obtained, was that species of contrariety, which distinguished this lady through life. Perhaps, she is the first Englishwoman who ever went to *Jerusalem* for a lover!

contami-



contaminated the benefits of the Duchess, by misdirecting them to the most worthless objects. Thus, in the enumeration of her purse-leeches, we find that human blood-sucker, MAJOR SEMPLE, whom she liberated from Calais prison, and it was termed, by the undiscerning, an act of generosity. But, the fact is, that the Duchess, in hearing of the confinement of the man, declared, in a moment, that she would contrive to have him released, and the method she proposed was, to bribe the prison guards, saw the iron bars of the window of his room, and thus effect an escape. This stratagem busied the Duchess for a week ; the creditors of SEMPLE all the time supposing that her Grace was calculating the amount of their demands, in order to discharge them. The project of an escape being defeated, the

Duchess found herself to be so embarrassed in the business, that she was compelled to do something to gratify the expectations which her officious interference had raised. A trifle was divided among the creditors, and MR. SEMPLE was shipped for England, to prosecute his depredations on the honest part of the community.

Of the qualities of the Duchess of Kingston, a kind of masculine courage seemed the most predominant. She had always a brace of loaded pistols by the side of her bed, and her injunctions to her female domestics were, never to enter her chamber unless the bell rang, as, by sudden surprize she might be induced to fire at them. This she most unquestionably would have done. In her travelling carriage there were fire-arms, and  
once,

once, on her route to Petersburg, she discharged a case of pistols at a party supposed to have inimical designs. This heroism, so uncommon in the female breast, was inherited by the Duchess, for, her mother, who once resided at Chelsea, walked thither each evening from London, with a brace of pistols in her pocket, as the means of her defence.

It was this kind of courage, rather than real magnanimity, which supported the Duchess under the extreme of sufferance. Pending her trial in the House of Peers, her ferocity of spirit broke forth whenever she withdrew from the bar; and the moment when her conviction was announced, the idea of keeping possession of her property *by force*, occurred to her mind. Scarcely had the Chancellor concluded his information of her having been adjudged guilty  
by

by her Peers, than she turned to MR. GLOVER, and said, " You hear that I am convicted ; there are *blunderbusses* and *pistols* at Kingston House, go there directly, turn all the servants out of doors, and keep possession of the house, for me, by *force*." Thus a conviction, under which others would have funk, but little affected the mind of the Lady who is the subject of this detail ; her title, more than her character, engrossed her attention. Her domestics were struck with the absurdity of continuing the stile after her conviction, which they had used before that event. They accordingly requested to be informed, how her Grace chose to be designated by them ? Her answer was ; " *Call me DUCHESS of KINGSTON, to be sure.*"

As in life, so in death, this lady was eccentric. The day before her demise she ate  
a brace



a brace of partridges, and some other game; she expired having scarcely swallowed two large bumpers of Madeira. Except an attack at Petersburg, when an epidemic disease prevailed, and the fever with which she was seized on her return from Rome to meet her trial, she experienced not an illness of a day. The method she took to preserve health, was that of braving every element. The severest cold neither impeded her journey, nor discomposed her feelings. Fires in her apartments, were rather in conformity to established usage, than as necessities for herself; and as a proof of her exemption from all medical rule, she almost totally reversed order in every thing. Late she retired to rest; early she arose. For a slight indication of the gout, she instantly plunged her feet in cold water; and phlebotomy, whether proper or not, was the universal recipe to which, on every

every indication of malady, she resorted.

Living, as did the Duchefs in the early period of her life, within the Court circle, her exterior manners had a polish, and her actions, when she chose it, a grace. When the sunshine of good humour exhilarated her spirits, there was brilliancy in every thing she did ; but, as she could be fascinating, the reverse was too much in her power, and too frequently in her inclination. Viewed superficially, and, by a transient acquaintance, she appeared irresistibly attractive ; an intimacy dissolved the charm, and even her most partial admirers could only feel a pity, that the powers of eminently pleasing, should not be united with internal worth. This deficiency it was which rendered her promises not to be relied on. They were merely thrown out

out as lures, without any serious intention of performing them. Hence, her friends, as she termed them, were changed like her garments ; and the only permanent attachments she had, were to those whom she seldom saw. It served her for an amusement, on a journey, to dictate letters to former acquaintances, and whether they lived in Saxony, Prussia, Poland, Peterburgh, Italy, or England, they were all complimented as being the exclusive engrossers of her esteem. On her trial ending, she instantly dictated two letters, the one to his Prussian Majesty, the other to the Empress of Russia. In both these epistles, the Sovereigns to whom they were addressed, were her “ *dearest friends, on*  
“ *whom alone she relied, under God, for con-*  
“ *solation in her afflictions. She was over-*  
“ *whelmed, like poor DAVID, by troubles,*  
“ *but there were Princes graciously inclined*

“ *also, like DAVID, to succour the oppressed!*” This was to excite pity. FREDERIC, in return, offered *Berlin* as an asylum, and intimation was given, by the Prussian Minister, “ That her property, if transmitted to the capital of his master’s dominions, would be perfectly secure.” Probably she thought this would be too literally the case; for, after receiving the intimation, and expressing her very grateful sense of the favour, she thus expressed herself to an English friend, “ *The King of Prussia is devilishly clever, but I shall not trust him.*” For her Imperial Majesty, the Duchess affected the greatest predilection. If she really had any, sameness of sex, and other according principles, might be the cause.

Profuse as the Duchess was in promises, they naturally occasioned her to be surrounded with expectants. These she always disgusted



gusted by disappointing them, and they either became enemies, or indifferents. Those whom she actually benefited, could not cordially esteem her, there being too frequently something intermingled with the favours conferred, to render it more than suspicious that they were not the genuine emanations of a liberal mind. The brother of Sir George Shuckburgh her Grace had adopted. The naval line he chose to pursue. Becoming a Lieutenant, it fell to his lot, by what is termed the "*fortune of war*," to be taken a prisoner in the action with PAUL JONES. The confinement, and other circumstances, conspiring, occasioned an illness, which terminated in a dropsy. Recovering sufficiently to undertake the journey, he paid the Duchess a visit at Calais. She received him very cordially; introduced him to the French officers as a prodigy of courage; took care to have it known that he

was

was a younger brother, without any fortune, and whose dependence was on her only. His illness was next deplored, and the means of an effectual recovery were deliberated on. The air near Calais was thought more salutary than that in the town; the Duchess, therefore, proposed it to Mr. SHUCKBURGH to have an apartment prepared for his immediate reception. He consented, and was conveyed to the house which her Grace had selected for his accommodation. The reader will judge of his feelings, when he is informed, that the carriage absolutely stopped at an HOSPITAL! and the designated apartment was a small room, the walls of which were plaistered. A female nurse was to have been the only attendant; and the Duchess, who had a peculiar turn for amplification, enumerated the advantages of the situation to each of her visitors. Mr. Shuckburgh was so affected, that it became

became his only consideration how he might frame some plausible excuse to return to England. He effected his purpose by getting a friend to write to him, and press it as a matter of moment to his professional interest, to present himself, as soon as possible, at the Admiralty.

This mode of providing for the cure of an invalid was not more singular than the manner which the Duchess took to promote the fortunes of her friends in health. Two instances, out of a thousand choice ones, shall suffice.

The eldest son of the President COCOVE had been selected by the Duchess to accompany her to Rome. He had borne a commission in the guards of the French Monarch. On the journey to and from Rome he was every thing that respectful

ful attention could dictate. The Duchess professed the greatest sensibility of his kindness, called him her son, and *promised* to advance his fortune. He afterwards accompanied her Grace to Petersburg, and, at the expiration of seven years attendance, the Duchess one morning thus addressed him :  
 “ COCOVE, my fortune I only prize as it  
 “ gives me the opportunity of *making others*  
 “ *happy*. I love you as a son, and I will put  
 “ *twenty thousand pounds* in your pocket !  
 “ That, I think, should content you.”—  
 Mr. COCOVE replied, “ It most assuredly  
 “ would ;” and he only wished to know  
 the means of acquiring such a sum. The  
 Duchess explained herself thus : “ I will  
 “ write to *Vergennes*, my friend, and get  
 “ him to obtain for you a considerable  
 “ grant of land between *Calais* and  
 “ *Dunkirk*. It is a soil fit for the  
 “ growth of *Scotch firs*. I will be at the  
 “ expence



“ expence of planting, and, in about  
 “ *thirty or forty years*, the plantation will  
 “ produce a fortune.” Here was genero-  
 fity with a vengeance ! Hope was first  
 artfully raised by the hand of flattery, then  
 unfeelingly depressed by that of disappoint-  
 ment.

The sister of the gentleman thus treated  
 is the second instance intended to be ad-  
 duced. She was married, and had a nu-  
 merous offspring. The Duchess requested  
 this lady to be of *her party* to Petersburg,  
 which was considered by her Grace merely  
 as an excursion to Hampton Court. The  
 husband hesitated, for he loved his children;  
 the wife required a little time to consider,  
 for she dreaded the inclemency of the  
 northern elements. At last feelings yielded  
 to promises, and the invitation was ac-  
 cepted. The Duchess, and her female  
 friend,

friend, as she then termed her, set out for Peterfburgh. Arriving there, the ductility of difpofition and engaging manners, before affumed, were all laid afide, and nature appeared in her genuine colours. Under a pretence of guarding the honour of the lady, the Duchefs, as the confervator of her connubial chaftity, had her locked up for forty-one days, and would have prolonged her incarceration, had ſhe not contrived the means of eſcaping to the French Ambaffador, from whom ſhe obtained money to defray the expence of her return to her native country. This lady only accompanied the Duchefs on the faith of her promiſe to make her and her family *happy* during the remainder of their lives. It was thus with almoſt every perſon to whom ſhe ſtood engaged by any ſolemn pledge of her honour. Is it ſurprizing that ſhe ſhould have

have lived and died without friends to so-  
lace or lament her?

Some of the habits of the Duchess have been before alluded to. They were all, when a purpose was not to be answered, under the dictation of the moment of feeling. That which would have startled others gratified, rather than incommoded, her Grace. What appetite required she indulged, and vain were contrary remonstrances. In the little of disease which she experienced, the recommendation of physicians was disregarded. Sir Clifton Wintringham once strongly requested the Duchess to live a little more abstemiously. It was in the afternoon, and she patiently endured him. The evening passed with a symptomatic fever, and, at three o'clock in the morning after his advice, she called him a fool, said, "The stomach was  
" made

"made to be filled," and ordered a capon to be roasted for her supper. Previous to her trial she swallowed strong emetics, for the purpose of realizing an illness which she had assumed; when the purpose was answered, she ate heartily, and laughed at the deception.

External delicacy is supposed to be peculiarly annexed, as an habit, to a certain rank in life. The Duchess was indisputably entitled to elevated rank; but, many of her habits were such as would cause the vulgar to blush, from their not having been initiated in the mysteries of fashionable breeding. If at table, and with company, the Duchess happened accidentally to swallow a tainted oyster; with the utmost coolness she called for a receiver, threw it off her stomach, and



and piously thanked her Maker for being so much better.

Her idea, like that of DOCTOR LAST, was to get rid of an enemy by every possible evacuation. Even time, place, or convenience, were not considered, if the enemy were pressing. An instance of this occurred at Petersburg; which gave rise to lampoons in every house in that capital. The Duchess stopped, one morning at the shop of a cabinet-maker, to look, as was her custom, at the various articles he had for sale. In a particular apartment there was a piece of furniture, commodious for the purpose her grace wanted. She sent the master of the shop on a frivolous commission, and paid her devoirs as nature directed: on his return, all things were, as he left them, in a covered state, and the Duchess retired with

with a promise to honor him with her favors at a future time. It was the season of summer when exhalations are powerful; and the cabinet-maker had the sense of smelling in perfection. He traced the effect to the proper cause, and he waited on the Duchess to inform her, that she had so damaged the piece of furniture as to induce him to hope she would purchase it. This she refused, and the refusal induced him, out of revenge, to discover the circumstance. It circulated through Peterburgh, and reached the ears of the Empress, who laughed most heartily at the transaction; of which the Duchess being apprised, she sent for the cabinet-maker, and paid him the price which he demanded for the utensil.

Habits, manners, and principles, compose the sum of life, and render the subject

ject of them estimable or obnoxious. In what point of view the Duchess of Kingston was lately beheld, and is now considered, may be known by her living almost friendless, and dying unregretted. The rites of sepulture are withheld her; for she, at this moment lieth an outcast suspended between Earth and Heaven. Not a relative anxious for her honourable interment; not an executor disinterested enough to have her remains oblivioned by the dust; not a tear shed on account of her departure, nor an heart affected by her loss. The few inquiries made, are directed solely to the nature of her will; and the struggle is, not about the respect to her memory, but the division of her property. That it was immense, notwithstanding artful reports to the contrary, the bequests, in the form of testamental papers, will evince. Those testamental

papers, with some elucidatory notes, are here subjoined. The reader, in perusing them, if a female, should not be dazzled by an inventory of splendid property; she should rather be taught to disdain possessions, improperly acquired, when she perceives a character, like the DUCHESS OF KINGSTON, through life abounding, yet poor amidst abundance; and, although constantly in the pursuit of happiness, to the last destitute of that internal peace, which virtue and religion only can impart.

The few inquiries made, are directed solely to the nature of her wish; and the struggle is, not about the respect to her memory, but the division of her property. That it was immense, notwithstanding arduous reports to the contrary, the pedigree, in the form of testamental will evince. Those testamental

*Printed*



*Printed literally and verbally from the Original.*

**TRANSLATED** from the French.

**1<sup>st</sup> Piece** **TESTAMENT** of her Grace  
(Her Highness) the Duchess of King-  
ston made the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Octo'.  
1786.

Within the cover is written

*Land called the or the \**  
**2<sup>d</sup> Piece** **THIS** is the last will and testa-  
ment of me the most noble Eliza-  
beth Duchess of Kingston in Eng-  
land, Countess of Warth in the  
Electorate of Bavaria and Duchess

\* What is meant by this prefatory sentence, is im-  
possible to conjecture. Nor can it be otherwise recon-  
ciled, than by remarking, that as the whole of the will  
is a jumble of inconsistencies, the introduction is of a  
piece with the rest.

of Kingston in Russia daughter of  
the late Colonel Thomas Chud-  
leigh of Hall in the parish of  
Harford in the county of Devon  
and of his wife Harriet daughter  
of Chudleigh, Esq. of  
Chalmington in the county of  
Dorset: which I make in manner  
following

Viz.

I give leave and bequeath all that  
house and land situate at Knightf-  
bridge in the parish of Saint Mar-  
garet Westminster called Kingston  
House together with the Gardens  
and all the Fields purchased of Mr.  
Swinhoe with all the appurtenances

A\* unto  
his heirs and assigns for the perpe-

\* This bequest to Mr. "A," is a very handsome  
one,

tual use of the said A  
his heirs and assigns and all that  
piece of land and field called Dairy  
Fields which is held on a long lease  
of Mr. Swinhoe whereof there are  
already thirty years expired unto the  
said A his executors  
administrators and assigns for all the  
remainder of the term yet to come  
and unexpired and all other lands  
and tenements situate near the said  
house and the estate thereunto be-  
longing and not otherwise disposed  
of by this present act unto the  
said A his administrators  
and assigns he and they paying out

one, and it is a pity that *alphabetical* gentleman, as  
well as his near relation, Mr. "B," should have  
so essentially ill treated the Duchess, as to induce  
her, as she afterwards doth, to transfer her bounty  
to persons more deserving.

of the revenue thereof to Margaret Cramont daughter of Captain Cramont formerly one of Aid de Camp of General Oglethorpe an annual rent of one hundred pounds during her life with which I hereby charge the said house land and estate and I give her the same power of entry and seisin in case of non-payment for six months as is customary with respect to common rent charges bequeathed on real estates; the first six months payment to be made on the first quarter day on which rents are usually paid which shall happen immediately after my decease.

I give leave and bequeath the two fields or pieces of land situate between the land called the Duke of Rutland's land and the garden belonging



B .longing to Kingston house unto  
 his heirs and assigns  
 for the perpetual use of the said B  
 his heirs and as-  
 signs

I give leave and bequeath all the  
 field or piece of land one part where-  
 of is a kitchen garden situate between  
 Kingston House and a house or farm  
 and land now used as a boarding-  
 L school unto his heirs  
 and assigns for the perpetual use of  
 the said L his heirs  
 and assigns And I give and bequeath  
 all the furniture pictures china  
 household linen fire-arms kitchen  
 and garden copper utensils and  
 other things belonging to the said  
 house kitchen garden stables coach-  
 houses and other buildings unto

A the said his executors administrators and assigns unto whom I have given the said house.

I give leave and bequeath all that capital house hen-houses farm and domain ground and other lands meadows and pasture grounds called Hall situate in the parish of Harford in the county of Devon and all those houses lands and farms with their appurtenances called Luks Landford Barn and Dards Tenements in the said parish of Harford, containing one hundred and twenty acres of land or thereabouts with their appurtenances and dependencies and the ruined cottage and meadow called Oddacombe Meadow containing one acres of land and two other cottages houses places and gardens with their dependencies  
formerly

formerly in the possession of John Worth or his tenant, one other cottage garden and inclosure in the possession of Thomas Pearce and likewise one moiety of the Lordship of Harford and a moiety of the right of patronage of the parish church of Harford and of the Marsh called Harford Marsh and all the other Estates now in my possession in the county of Devon with all the appurtenances and appendages (subject to an annual payment of fifty pounds from me to Mrs. Mason during her life who has lived in my house called Hall in different circumstances and has received the said rent-charge for several years and which is still paid to her and for which I charge my estates in the county of Devon and give to her the same power to be paid in the same manner

ner

ner as I have directed for the rent-charge herein above given to Margaret Cramond) unto Sir George Shuckburgh Baronet Sir Richard Heron and George Payne of Brooklands in the county of Surry Esq. their heirs and assigns with power to transfer the same to the use of

C during his life and after his decease to the use of the first second and other sons successively of the said in the male line and in default of male heirs of the said C or in case of there being any they should happen to die before the age of twenty

P one years then to the use of during his life and after his decease to the use of the first second or any other son of the said P successively in the male line and in default



fault of male issue of the said P  
 or in case there should be any and  
 that they should happen to die be-  
 fore the age of twenty one years  
 then to the use of the Revd. John  
 Penrose Clerk of Fieldborough in  
 the county of Nottingham during  
 his life and after his decease for the  
 use of the first second and every  
 other male child of the said John  
 Penrose successively and in default  
 of male issue of the said John Pen-  
 rose or in case there should be any  
 and that they should happen to die  
 before the age of twenty-one years  
 then to the use of the Revd. John  
 Donisthorpe of Corkney in the said  
 county of Nottingham his heirs and  
 assigns and I do hereby order that  
 all and every person or persons unto  
 whom I have bequeathed my said  
 estates

estates in the county of Devon \* shall be obliged to take the surname and arms of Chudleigh as soon as they shall have taken possession thereof and in default of conforming themselves thereto, the person remaining nearest shall be at liberty to take possession of the said estate and to enjoy the same as if the person refusing was dead. I do also order that trustees be appointed in such place as shall be thought necessary to preserve the contingent remainder, with power to the person in possession or the guardians of the children who shall have a right to the estate when they shall have at-

\* These said estates in the county of Devon amount, in the annual income, to about *one hundred pounds a year.*

tained

tained the age of twenty one years  
 to lease the same And I hereby  
 give and bequeath all the furniture  
 plate pictures china looking glasses  
 linen, fire arms carriages waggons  
 household utensils garden tools horses  
 horned cattle annuity and all other  
 things belonging to the houses park  
 land gardens baths and appurtenan-  
 ces at Thoresby Holm Pierpoint  
 and all the other houses lately be-  
 longing to his Grace the Duke of  
 Kingston deceased in the county of  
 Nottingham or any other part of  
 England (the county of Middlesex  
 only excepted) unto the said Sir  
 George Shuckburgh Sir Richard He-  
 ron and George Paine their execu-  
 tors administrators and assigns on  
 condition of having them valued and  
 estimated by two indifferent persons

of the greatest skill and experience according to their different sorts and qualities and to offer them first to Charles Meadows of                      Esq. if he will make a purchase thereof at the price of the valuation and pay the amount thereof in five equal annual portions but if he refuses to accept of it, it shall then be publicly sold by the said trustees, their executors administrators and assigns, and the monies arising therefrom shall be received and retained by them; and if the furniture and other things produce the sum of fifteen thousand pounds or more this sum of fifteen thousand pounds shall be paid to Evelin Philip Meadows Esquire\*  
of

\* These are the chattels bequeathed her by his Grace of Kingston, which, as her personal property, will, of course, occasion a contest on the part of the

next



of Chaillot near Paris and the surplus be advanced by the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors administrators and assigns on Government security the interest to be paid to the said Evelin Philip Meadows during his life and after his decease the principal shall be divided equally among his children with benefit of survivorship until twenty one years and the provision for their maintenance shall be taken in the usual manner out of the interests of the said

next of kin. The pretensions of *Evelyn Meadows* to this bequest, are, to such a character as the Duchess, the best founded imaginable. He *disgraced* her by a prosecution, which finally exiled her. Like *Charles the Second*, she provided for *enemies*; leaving her friends to console themselves with the love of her good qualities.

securities

securities but if the said Evelyn Philip Meadows should not leave any children it shall be paid and applied to the benefit of the children of the said Charles Meadows, his eldest son excepted, equally with benefit of survivorship and the usual administration for the maintenance of them as ordered with respect to the children of the said Evelyn Philip Meadows. But if the whole does not produce fifteen thousand pounds then the total shall be paid to the said Evelyn Philip Meadows and if it should so happen that the said Evelyn Philip Meadows should die before me, then the said produce shall be paid unto and divided amongst his children if more than one with the usual provision for their maintenance as herein before mentioned and if he leaves only one child the said

said produce shall be given to such child and if he should die without heirs it shall then be paid to the children of the said Charles Meadows, his eldest son excepted, in the same manner as to those of the said Evelyn Philip Meadows. And I also give and bequeath unto said Charles Meadows all the *communion plate* which belonged to the chapel of Thoresby and which were taken away with the other vessels and sent *by mistake* to St. Petersburg in Russia \*, and my gold desert plate

\* To strip a chapel of the Communion plate, and pretend that the sacramental vessels could be sent from *Nottinghamshire* to *Russia* BY MISTAKE, is adding a *lie* to *sacrilege*. If it were possible that the *Communion plate* were sent to Petersburg, *by mistake*, how came it not to be returned when the *mistake* was discovered? It is shocking to consider to what length the *lust of avarice* can impel the human mind. A chapel may be *robbed*, and the impiety of the deed may be termed a *mistake*.

with

with the case of knives forks and spoons of gold and four golden salt cellars all engraved with the arms of Kingston and also one large salt cellar called Queen Elizabeth's salt cellar together with all my other gold and gilt plate whatsoever, either for use or ornament and likewise the following plate viz. one large cistern with ornaments weighing 3606 ounces two large silver vessels to put wine in with their pedestals and appurtenances one large cover one middle piece weighing 632 oz. 5 dwts. two large tureens with covers weighing 1342 oz. 5 dwts. and their dishes; two tureens with handles weighing 592 oz. 10 dt.—Two corner tureens weighing together 650 oz. 17 dt. two soup dishes weighing 171 oz. 19 dt. four ice pails weighing together 252 oz. 13 dt. two large cups



cups weighing together 266 oz. 5 dt.  
 two cups weighing 158 oz. 10 dt. six  
 cups weighing together 278 oz. 8 dt.  
 six cups weighing together 188 oz.  
 8 dt. two cups weighing 44 oz. 14 dt.  
 two cups weighing 71 oz. 16 dt. four  
 cups weighing 70 oz. 16 dt. eight  
 cups plain round weighing 234 oz.  
 6 dt. eight deep round cups weigh-  
 ing 184 oz. four corner cups weigh-  
 ing 76 oz. 4 dt. six sauce boats weigh-  
 ing 128 oz. 19 dt. five dozen of plain  
 plates weighing 1441 oz. 14 dt. and  
 six dozen of wrought plates weigh-  
 ing 1437 oz. 13 dt.\*—And I also give

\* This specification of valuable articles is astonishing ;  
 and still more astonishing is the current language of  
*one*, at least, of the Executors, that the Ducheſs died  
 impoverished. How far a mixture of *ſelf-interest* may  
 cauſe ſuch reports to be propagated, is matter of confi-  
 deration for the relatives.

him

him my nine dozen of Moco handle knives and forks mounted in gold which I bought at Rome and likewise the whole length portrates of the late Duke of Kingston and of the present Duchess of Kingston to be put up at Thoresby which as well as all the plates shall be reputed as an heirloom of the said house; and I also give him the several pieces of cannon and the ships and vessel on Thoresby Lake all the copper fountains locks bolts bars bells—and all other furniture in and about the houses gardens stables and houses thereunto belonging to be reputed as appendages of the said house and I give and bequeath to Mrs. Meadows wife of the said Charles Meadows all my gold fillagree work plate toilette furniture together with all the ancient enamelled

melled ornaments thereto belonging  
 and all the cabinets and other pieces  
 of japan ware all the gold and gilt  
 plate and japan ware, are now at  
 St. Petersburg, also my pearl neck-  
 lace consisting of        of pearls  
 with two drop pearls in the shape  
 of pears strung at the two ends of  
 the necklace and which belonged  
 heretofore to the family of King-  
 ston. And I order that all the plate  
 and the pearl necklace here-above  
 mentioned and given to Mr. and Mrs.  
 Charles Meadows as aforesaid shall  
 be carried and placed at Thoresby  
 and that they shall enjoy the same  
 for ever together with the house as  
 an heir loom.

I give leave and bequeath my house  
 situate at Montmartre or in any other  
 place

place at or near Paris in the kingdom of France with the gardens and appurtenances unto Messrs. Girardot and Haller bankers at Paris on condition of their selling the same and paying out of the money arising therefrom to the Abbe Fillatrée now at the Prince Cardinal of Rohan's one thousand Louis-d'ors unto the said Mr. Haller six hundred Louis-d'ors to purchase a pair of diamond shoe buckles to Madam de Gros at Paris one thousand Louis-d'ors to Mr. l'Ekouffe of Paris five hundred Louis-d'ors to Mr. Becket de Moyceque of Calais second son of the late President Cocove\* one thousand Louis-d'ors

\* The eldest son, who travelled with the Duchess to Rome, Petersburgh, and other places, is commended by her good wishes, to the care of Heaven.



and to pay to my trustees five hundred Louis-d'ors to be placed out at interest and pay the income to Madamoifelle Cafferiere a young lady of Calais—Sister of the late Mr. Cafferiere of the Custom-house during her life and after her decease to pay the principal to the said Mr. Becket de Moyceque of Calais to purchase an annual rent of one hundred Louis d'ors for ever for the benefit of the two schools at Calais for the education of all the children which shall be brought there for instruction according to the rules of those schools newly established and the rent to be paid one half each to each of the said schools, the receipts of the six brothers of the boys school and of the six sisters of the girls school shall be a sufficient discharge

discharge and to employ \* a sufficient sum for building a prison for the prisoners of war and those for debt in order to keep them separate from the criminals ; and if there should remain any money over and above these disposals they shall employ a sufficient quantity for the building of a water mill in a † convenient place in the town of Calais for the use and benefit

\* This idea of erecting a separate prison for the debtors, was suggested to the Dukes by *Major Semple*, who stated it to have been his principal sufferance, to have had *his feelings wounded*, by being liable to mix with rogues.

† This jocular mode of converting the *Mayor of Calais* into a Miller, is altogether so suitable to the genius of the *Testator*, as not, perhaps, to occur to the mind of any other person in the universe. There is an air of *lunacy* pervades the whole of the will.

of the public (as at certain times when the wind fails the poor are liable to be without bread) which shall grind gratis for the poor on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays under the inspection and direction of the Mayor of the town, and lastly the remainder to be employed by Mr. Haller in brilliants for Mademoiselle Hougherot, none of the diamonds to be under the weight of one carat. I will that all the plate and other effects (the pictures excepted) which are in the house at Paris be sold by my executors the money arising therefrom to be placed out in government or other good securities and the interest thereof to be paid to Mrs. Donisthorne wife of the aforementioned Reverend John Donisthorne during her life and after her

her death the capital to be divided among her children in such manner and at such times as she shall direct by deed or testament in default of which disposal on her part it shall be divided among them in equal portions to be paid to them when they shall have respectively attained the twenty first year of their age with the usual power for their maintenance and benefit of survivorship if any of them die before attaining the age of twenty one years but if she leaves no issue then to such persons and in such manner as she shall direct in the said deeds or testament And I give leave and bequeath my hotel and garden adjacent together with the stables dependencies and appurtenances situate at Calais in the said kingdom of France to the government



ment of the said kingdom to be employed to make the resident of the commandant of the town of Calais for the time being to be delivered after the furniture and fixtures shall be taken out together with the wines and liquors which are in the cellar \* which are to be left for the use of the first commandant who shall reside there—I give and bequeath the pictures in the gallery of the said hotel painted by Mignard to the Lord Mayor Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of London begging their acceptance thereof and

\* This cellar is in excellent condition as to what it contains, for there are about *forty thousand bottles* of different sorts of wine in it. The present commandant, having passed his grand climacteric, is not qualified to enjoy the pleasures of the *cellar*, but, should it fall to the lot of a *bon vivant*, it would prove a most acceptable bequest.

that

that they would place them in the Egyptian hall of the Mansion house which the Lord Mayor of the said City for the time being inhabits \*.

I give and bequeath the remainder of the pictures and the furniture of the said hotel (the plate and household linen excepted) unto the said Sir George Shuckburg Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their executors administrators and assigns to be sold by auction at the beginning of the month of May in the year next after my decease, and to regulate the accounts of Mr. Speake my maitre d'hotel in that

\* There are *sixteen* of these pictures, and very valuable they are ; but whether they may ever come into the possession of the Corporation of London, is, at present, a little problematical. The relations of the Dukes may think it quite as well to convert them into cash, as to have them ornament the Hall to which the Dukes, in a moment of folly, consigned them.

town under the inspection of Mr. John  
 Williams my maitre d'hotel at the hotel  
 of Kingston and pay him the balance if  
 any be due to him also to pay to each  
 of my English domestics who shall be  
 in my service at the hour of my decease  
 the sum of twenty pounds each to pay  
 the expences of their passage and jour-  
 ney And I order hereby that the rest  
 of the monies arising from the said sale  
 shall be equally divided by the said Sir  
 George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron  
 and George Payne their executors ad-  
 ministrators and assigns among the  
 children of the sisters of the late Sir  
 John Chudleigh with the usual powers  
 for their maintenance and benefit of  
 survivorship in case any of them should  
 die before having received the legacies  
 And I hereby order that the plate the  
 silver urn excepted which shall be in

L

my

My said hotel at the day of my decease shall be lent to my house at Knightf-  
 bridge called Kingston House for the  
 use and behoof of the said A——  
 his executors administrators and assigns  
 unto whom I have left the said house  
 And I give and bequeath all the house-  
 hold linen to Mademoiselle Charles  
 Meadows. I give and bequeath to Mr.  
 Fry Dr. of Medicine at Rome who at-  
 tended me during my abode in that  
 City all my household linen china and  
 all other goods and effects whatso-  
 ever belonging to me in the pos-  
 session and custody of the Abbess  
 of the Convent of\* of  
 the said Doctor Fry and of Mr.

\* The property in the custody of this nameless *Abbess*,  
 added to the other possessions at *Rome*, are estimated at  
*two thousand pounds value.*



Orlanderd Treasurer of the Jesuits  
 her paying two hundred ducats to  
 the said Mr. Orlanderd, or if he  
 should be dead at the day of my  
 decease to his widow if she is alive  
 and I order that a catalogue be  
 made of the printed music and books  
 in the hands of the said persons  
 at Rome and that the said printed  
 music and the books together with  
 a copy of the said catalogue shall  
 be delivered to the Russian Minister  
 then at this place for the use of  
 General Fossoskie at St. Petersburg  
 if living, but if he is dead for  
 the use of his son—I give leave  
 and bequeath my land called Chud-  
 leigh in the district of Motlic in  
 the Russian empire, together with the  
 house in which I reside and all other  
 houses and buildings thereto belonging

and all the forests mines quarries dependencies and appurtenances and all the furniture plate household linen china looking glasses and other things in and about the said house stables gardens and outhouses with the horses peasants, annual and perpetual rents and other things belonging to the said land unto his heirs and assigns for ever for which he shall pay within twelve months after my decease the sum of thirty thousand roubles to Mr. Muers my apothecary living there in one of my houses, and one tenth of the produce of all the mines whatsoever to such person or persons in favour of whom it shall please her Imperial Majesty graciously to dispose of the same to be by them had and received for their own proper use and I

order

order that my four musical slaves \* and their wives bought of Mr. Douglas at Revel shall have their liberty six years after my decease and that there shall be paid to each of them thirty six roubles per annum to be paid out of the said land for the services they are to render to the person or persons to whom my land is bequeathed and unto their wives the sum of eighteen roubles per annum each.

\* Even in this manumission there is discovered a latent principle of tyranny ; for the slaves are to be liberated for *six years*, and be afterwards in bondage during the remainder of their lives. As was said of *Herod*, that “ it were better to be his *bogs*, than his *children*” so would the condition of a *coal-beaver* have been preferable to that of her *Grace of Kingston’s* “ *Musical Performers.*”

I give

I give leave and bequeath in like manner the piece of land at Schuffelbourg a gracious gift made to me by her Imperial Majesty the Empress of all the Russias situate on the banks of the Neva and adjoining to the land of Prince Potemkin unto

and his heirs for ever. And I give leave and bequeath all the land purchased of General Ismoiloff in the year 1785 called Casterbaback on the road of Czarfco Zello with the houses gardens

and dependencies unto and his heirs for ever. And I give leave and bequeath my large house and other houses gardens and land at St. Petersburg bought of the said

General Ismoiloff, unto and his heirs for ever I give to the Countess of Gramont my large black enamelled ring set round with  
brilliants



brilliants and having a large oval  
 brilliant in the middle and I give  
 to the Countess de Boffe my cornu-  
 copia set with brilliants one pair  
 of ear-rings of emeralds round pear  
 fashion, my large emerald ring set  
 round with brilliants and an eme-  
 rald cross and ribbon attached to  
 it set round with brilliants and  
 likewise all my emeralds. I give  
 and bequeath my two fine music  
 lustres at the house at St. Peterf-  
 burgh where I reside my fine organ  
 mounted with engraved glass and  
 precious stones set in gold and fil-  
 lagree work with two tables of  
 Oriental alabaster to the Prince  
 of ~~Orleans~~ as a small testi-  
 mony of my remembrance and  
 of his attention to me. And  
 I give and bequeath all my organs  
 (except

(except the above mentioned) and all my forte pianos and musical instruments of every kind all my music and the books of my library at St. Petersburg together with all my globes telescopes and all other optical instruments and all my clothes in the said house trimmed or lined with fur and all other furs made up or to be made up in all the houses whatsoever which I have in Russia

I - unto And I

give and bequeath all my china and looking-glasses whatsoever belonging to the said houses at St. Petersburg either ornamental or useful (the mirrors belonging to the houses excepted) and all the household linen that shall be found therein to the said Charles Meadows and I give all the carpets of the said house the coach-

coach-horses the kitchen furniture in and about the said house at St. Petersburg unto my executors as making part of my own proper estate I give and bequeath likewise all the remainder of the furniture that shall be found in the said house at St. Petersburg unto the said

K unto whom I have given the said house I give and bequeath as an act of justice to the said Charles Meadows to be reputed an heirloom of Thoresby the two pictures which are in the possession of the Count de \* through the misunderstood interpretation of a letter which he received and which he maintains to have

\* The Nobleman here alluded to, is Count *Cherischoff*.

been presented to him viz. one of the said pictures known and attested by Carlo Marriott for an original of Raphael the Holy Family and the other a Claude Lorrain It is said in the said letter that these two pictures were much esteemed and admired by the late Duke of Kingston I set a great value on them and I trusted them to his care, the expression in French was “*Je vous le confie*” (I trust them to you) this circumstance can be attested by Major Moreau at that time my secretary who wrote that letter signed by me, they have been demanded and refused several times and particularly once by my painter Mr. Le Sure

\* The Nobleman here alluded to, is Count *Chernichoff*.



who presented the request in writing  
signed by me

I give and bequeath to  
the model of a sleeping figure the  
original whereof is now at Rome  
which was or is thought to have  
been seen at the said Compté de  
having been brought  
from Thoresby in Nottinghamshire by  
Moiett my gardener, who  
shipped it on board a ship which  
brought him and the figure to St.  
Peterburg where he himself deliver-  
ed it and where he saw it often and for  
a long time in the court yard of the  
said Count before the house and dur-  
ing many months in the said Count's  
garden in a case without a cover, I have  
kept his attestation thereof copy where-  
of I annexed to this present act I  
order

order my executors and trustees to offer all the pictures of my house at St. Petersburg to her Imperial Majesty if she will accept of them, and pay for them unto my said executors the sum of one hundred thousand roubles \* and if her Majesty does not accept of them my executors shall be bound to offer them to the King of Spain and in case he should not accept of them they shall then cause them to be sent to England to be publicly sold there.

I direct and request the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne to offer and lay at the feet of her Imperial Majesty my pair of pearl ear-rings with my

\* About twenty-five thousand pounds sterling.

aigrette containing five red pearls and one large red pearl suspended from an Imperial crown of brilliants only worthy to be offered as the rarest jewel in the known world and the acknowledgment of a heart full of gratitude for the particular friendship with which her Imperial Majesty has always distinguished me

I give and bequeath to his Holiness the Pope a miniature picture representing the Holy Family by Raphael in a gold snuff-box incrustated with pebbles found in Saxony as an acknowledgment of his gracious protection and of the honour and favour he was pleased to shew me by preserving a very considerable property consisting of plate jewels and other things of value which were  
under

under his Holiness's care during three years that my persecution lasted which were well preserved and restored to me undamaged and without expences

I give and bequeath unto the British Museum in Montague House Great Ruffel-street Bloomsbury London my two large pearls set round with brilliants which are supposed to weigh 47 grains more than those pledged by the Dutch in England in the reign of the House of Stuart which were estimated too high to be purchased and also the snuff-box which appears to be chrystal and which is only Scotch pebble set round with diamonds and served as a case to a watch of Mary Queen of Scotland and was given by her to a friend



friend on the scaffold in her last moments that it may remain among the curiosities in England.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable the Countess of Salisbury my pair of ear-rings of white pearls in the form of pears set with brilliants which anciently belonged to the Countess of Salisbury in the time of the reign of Edward who instituted the Order of the Garter and purchased by me of Mr. Matthew Lamb trustee of one of the House of Salisbury.

I give and bequeath my large diamond ring consisting of one stone weighing twenty-seven grains to the Earl of Hillsborough Baron in England as a small testimony of my acknowledgment

knowledge for the constant friendship which he shewed me during the time of my troubles and persecutions.

I give and bequeath my large diamond button which I wore in my hat and a diamond loop to be purchased by my executors and worn therewith the diamonds to be of one carat each of the first quality English cut for his Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

I give and bequeath the fellow button to his Grace the Duke of Portland with a similar loop to be purchased.

I give and bequeath to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Barrington

ton one thousand pounds for a foli-  
taire ring.

I give and bequeath to the Right  
Honourable Admiral Barrington my  
frigate with all her sails apparel an-  
chors and other things thereto be-  
longing to be delivered to him after  
making her voyage from Russia to  
transport to England such necessary  
equipage and other things as my  
executors shall want to transport  
there and in case the frigate shall be  
by them demanded for that purpose ;  
but this voyage shall be made within  
fifteen months after my decease.

I give and bequeath to the Ho-  
nourable Mr. Daines Barrington of  
the Inner Temple London my antique  
cameo ring with the head of Cicero  
and

and every thing that may be found in my cabinet of natural history, and fundry loose parcels found in the rivers in different parts of the world and which are in a crystal box to appearance but is a Scotch pebble set with diamonds.

I give and bequeath to the Right Revd. Shute Barrington Bishop of Salisbury \*

I give and bequeath to the said Sir George Shuckburgh Baronet my diamond shoe buckles.

I give and bequeath to Sir Richard Heron to be held and reputed as an

\* As the blanks in this *hocus pocus* medley, which Mr. *Payne*, one of the executors, has the kindness to call a *will*, is not filled up, the Bishop of Salisbury must be content with the good wishes of his departed friend.

heir-



heir-loom to him and his family  
my large pair of diamond ear-rings  
brilliant consisting of a single stone  
each.

I give and bequeath to my cousin  
Mr. Harry Oxendon who married  
Miss Peggy Chudleigh the youngest  
daughter of my uncle Sir George  
Chudleigh Bart. of the county of  
Devon to be held and reputed as heir-  
looms my set of brilliants and topazes  
consisting of a necklace one pair of  
ear-rings one ring one pair of shoe  
buckles in yellow topazes all set round  
with brilliants which (the shoe buckles  
excepted) were given to me as a pre-  
sent by the Electress Dowager of  
Saxony and a large pearl in form  
of a pea set round with brilliants and  
also a pair of shapés embroidered in  
brilliants

brilliants for women's shoes and eight rare diamonds which served as trimming for a robe with the four foliages of brilliants dependent thereto to make a pair of buckles and I give him the sum of three hundred and twenty pounds to purchase thirty-two brilliants to make the large side of the buckles.

I give and bequeath to Mr, Chichester son of my cousin Mr. John Chichester and of Mary Chudleigh his wife and one of the daughters of Sir George Chudleigh to become and be reputed as heir-looms the twenty-three diamonds \*

I give

\* Among the number of diamonds which the Duchess bequeathed, it will be rather difficult for the executors  
to

I give and bequeath to my cousin Mr. Prideaux who married Miss Mary Chudleigh daughter of Sir George Chudleigh my large diamond breast knot which I usually wore in my hat which I desire may become and be reputed as an heir-loom. I hereby order my executors to lay out two thousand pounds in the purchase of an annuity for Elizabeth Chudleigh sister of the late Sir John Chudleigh to be paid to her and I give her a legacy of three hundred pounds.

I also give and bequeath to Miss Diana Chudleigh one hundred pounds for a ring.

to ascertain which were the *twenty-three* she intended for Mr. Chichester. Left to the choice of others, they may not be of the *first water*.

I give

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Strong my cousin who lives near Wrexham in the county of Wales the sum of five hundred pounds and all my rubies set with brilliants eight brilliant robe buttons my pearl necklace composed of six rows my sapphires and yellow brilliants consisting of one pair of ear-rings two sapphires for buttons two small flowers in form of daisies a butterfly a sapphire ring set with brilliants and a sapphire pear set with brilliants to hang at the neck a solitaire ring yellow diamond a hoop ring all which diamonds and precious stones I desire may be looked upon and reputed as heir-looms.

I give and bequeath to my Cousin Miss Elizabeth Chudleigh third daughter



ter of George Chudleigh of the County of Devon the brilliant loops which I usually wore to the sleeves of my gown and a knot of brilliants with which I generally tie my morning gown and my large brilliant ring during their life and after their death I give them to some one of their sisters children to dispose of them.

I give and bequeth to my relation Mrs. Standard formerly Miss Mason the sum of five hundred pounds and also a large silver table engraved with the arms of Chudleigh a large silver coffee pot and a silver tea service in the form of an urn which is at Calais as hair-looms.

I give

I give and bequeath to Mr. Jeffery Chalut de Verin Farmer General in France all my pictures which shall be found in or about Paris and the sum of one thousand Louis d'ors to purchase a ring in my remembrance.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Payne wife of the aforementioned George Payne my gold watch and chain set with small brilliants and my large usual ring which she will please to wear for my sake and to be given after my decease to the eldest daughter if she pleases.

I give and bequeath to the virtuous and honourable Mr. Komonski of St. Petersburg at the Chancery of Prince Potemkin in consideration  
of

of his respectful attachment and of the care he took of me during my voyage from St. Peterburg to France when he was sent with me by her most gracious Imperial Majesty the sum of fifty thousand roubles which legacy I order to be paid to him the year after my decease.

I give and bequeath to Mrs. Ann Hamilton a rent of two hundred pounds per annum during her life to be paid out of my personal estate.

I give and bequeath to my old and faithful servant John Williams the sum of four thousand pounds and to his wife who has been with me a great number of years the sum of five hundred pounds and to their son and

M

daughter

daughter the sum of three thousand pounds each and I desire the said Sir John Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the sum of one hundred thousand livres in the purchase of an annuity on the heads of Speake and his wife now my domestics in my house at Calais and on the head of the survivors to be paid to the said Speake and his wife during their lives by moieties the moiety payable to the wife shall be for her separate use and her receipt shall be a sufficient discharge and after the death of either of them the remainder shall be paid to the survivor during life. I also desire the said Sir George Schuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the like sum



sum of one hundred thousand livres on government or good securities and to pay the interest or dividend to Anthony Seymour my domestic now living in my house at St. Petersburg during his life and after his death to his wife during her life and after the decease of the survivor to transfer the funds or security in which this sum shall be placed to their children my god-son Evelyn Seymour when he shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. And the interest on dividend shall be applied in the mean time for his maintenance and education but if the said Evelyn Seymour should happen to die before the age of twenty-one years then I give it to the next child of the said Anthony Seymour and of his wife payable in the same manner as directed for Evelyn Seymour and so on in succession

whilst there is a child of the said Anthony Seymour and his wife and I give to the said Anthony Seymour or to his wife. If he shall die before me to be paid in case they or the survivor shall render up my property of Saint Peterburgh unto my Executors and with their consent the sum of two hundred pounds and I order that their wages shall continue to be paid to them until they shall be discharged by my Executors And I give to my servant John Lilly five hundred pounds and I desire the said Sir George Shuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to employ the sum of one hundred thousand livres to purchase an annuity on the heads of the said John Lilly and his wife and on that of the survivor and to pay it to the said John Lilly during his life

and

and after his death to his wife during her life. I order that this annuity be paid into the hands of the said John Lilly and his wife solely on their respective receipts to serve as a discharge and if either of them should sell or assign this annuity it shall then cease and be no longer payable to them but shall then lapse and become part of my personal estate. I desire my said Executors to advance the sum of six hundred pounds to be employed in the purchase of an annuity for the life of Alexander Berry my coachman and to pay it into his own hands during his life and his simple receipt shall be a discharge, and if he sells or assigns it this annuity shall cease and lapse to become part of my personal estate. And I desire my said Executors to purchase an annuity of fifty pounds per annum with a part of

my

my estate during the life of Mr. Angel who lives with me as interpreter and to pay it him during his life.

I give and bequeath to Mr. Campbell son of Campbell

Esq. of Wales by his deceased wife formerly Miss Meadows daughter of Philip Meadows Esq. Deputy Ranger of Richmond Park in the County of Surry the sum of five thousand pounds And I give and bequeath to Mrs. Egerton of Salisbury in the County of Wilts widow a rent of fifty pounds per annum and after her death this rent shall be paid to her brother

Lindsey, if living and I require and order my Executors to purchase an annuity of fifty pounds per annum for the said Mrs. Egerton and Mr. Lindsey if they shall be living at the time of my



my decease and to pay it half yearly to them or him as above but if one of them only shall be alive the same annuity for the life of the party then living shall be paid half yearly to him or her as the case may be And I hereby desire my Executors to call on Mr. Samuel Cox \* jeweller of Shoe Lane London and require him to pay what he is indebted to me as soon as his circumstances will permit without deranging himself leaving it to his known honor and conscience to pay it without being compelled by any security which he may have given me and which may be found in my possession at my decease, and in case the said

\* The sum which *Mr. Cox* owed the *Duchess*, was *two thousand pounds*. She assisted him with money in a manner that did her credit.

Charles

Charles Cox should die before he has paid it I make no doubt but his son or his representative will honor the said debt and when it shall be paid I order that it shall be divided in equal shares among the children of the said Mrs. Strong. With respect to all the residue of my estate after payment of my debts funeral expences and legacies and all charges and expences for the execution of my true will I order the said Sir George Schuckburgh Sir Richard Heron and George Payne their Executors Administrators and Assigns to apply this capital and employ it on good security and to employ the interests or dividends thereof if they amount to a sufficient sum on government or good security in such manner that it be for the life of the said Mr. Charles Meadows and General Meadows

dows and at the decease of one of them one half of the interests shall be employed for the widow of the first dying during her life and at the decease of the other the other half shall be for the widow of the survivor of the said Charles Meadows and General Meadows and after the decease of one of the said two widows—One half of the principal shall be paid transferred and assigned over to the said Mr. Campbell son of the said Mr. Campbell and of his wife formerly Miss Meadows and after the decease of the other widow the principal of the other half shall be transferred and assigned over to the said Mr. Campbell.

And I hereby revoke all wills by me heretofore made and I constitute the said Sir George Shuckburgh, Sir

Richard Heron and George Payne my  
 testamentary Agents and Executors  
 and give to each of them one thou-  
 sand pounds for the trouble they  
 may have. And I order that in  
 case the said George Payne should  
 go from France to Russia to take  
 the possession and direction of my  
 estate that over and above all the  
 charges and expences he may be put  
 to and over and above the said le-  
 gacy of one thousand pounds he  
 shall be paid or shall retain the sum  
 of two thousand pounds for his trou-  
 ble in making that voyage—In Wit-  
 ness whereof I have signed my name  
 on the first fifteen sheets of paper of  
 the sixteen sheets of which this  
 testament of my will is composed  
 and on the sixteenth sheet I have  
 signed my name and affixed my  
 seal



seal of arms this 26th day of October in the year of our Lord 1786.

(Signed) E. Kingston Warth.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Elizabeth Duchefs of Kingston Countefs of Warth the testatrix in the presence of us whose names are hereunder written and who have all signed our names in witness thereof in her presence and in the presence of each other.

Signed John Gregfon, watchmaker to the King at Paris.

Verbecq jeweller rue St. Honore at Paris.

Arthaud secretery to the Duchefs of Kingston.

3d Piece **CODICIL** which I desire may be annexed and looked upon and considered as making a part of my last will and testament and which I make in manner following viz. on a slip of paper annexed with a pin—I give to my Maitre d'Hotel Mr. John Pickin the sum of five hundred pounds.

**E. KINGSTON WARTH.**

4th Piece **A**

**B**

**C.** Chudleigh Haynes son of the Reverend Mr. Haynes Curate of St. Mary's Church in the said town of Nottingham.

**D** Strong eldest son of the Reverend Mr. Strong and of his wife Ann sister of the late John Chudleigh

**Chudleigh of Chalmington in the  
county of Dorset.**

**E**

**F**

**G**

**H**

**I**

**K Evelyn Philip Meadows**

**The enamel cross with its string.  
Not to forget to send to Chudleigh  
at Peterburgh the case of China.**

**On the back is written**

**Alphabetical Table containing  
the Letters and Names to which  
they refer.**

**When her Grace (her Highness)  
wishes to fill up the blanks con-  
formable to the letters; she will  
then please to write the names  
against**

against the letters, which will afterwards serve her to find those she wishes to put in the said blanks.

### 5th Piece,      MODEL of CODICIL.

I desire that a codicil may be annexed and taken and regarded and making part of my last will and testament, and I make it in manner following, viz.

I give to John Barnard of Pall Mall London Esq. my diamond ring which I had given by my will to Mr. Alexander Ross, who is since dead.

**E. KINGSTON WARTH,**

this 1st January, 1787.

I give



I give to Mrs. La Touche of  
Paris the pearl ear-rings and neck-  
lace which I usually wear.

E. KINGSTON WARTH  
the 10th May 1787.

I give to Mrs. Johnson of  
Chudleigh in the county of Devon  
one thousand pounds.

E. KINGSTON WARTH  
the 21st August 1787.

I desire to be buried in the  
following manner, viz. to be  
embalmed, and if I die in Russia,  
I most humbly beseech her Im-  
perial Majesty to permit that I  
may be privately buried in such  
place and in such manner as it  
shall please her Majesty to order,  
I wishing

wishing and desiring that it may be in the same province where she herself may will my body to repose, when my heart has been with her this long time, but if I should die near England I desire that my body be transported without pomp and buried in the Church of Chudleigh, where I will that a handsome monument be made and erected, for which purpose I order my testamentary executors to lay out the sum of five hundred pounds.

If the plate and the other effects given to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meadows as heirs shall appear and be delivered entirely I desire Mr. Meadows to pay 100l. to Mr. Superieur, her Grace (her Highness)

Highness) has a legacy to insert  
for Mr. Pickin.

**ATTESTATION** to add to the  
Codicil in case there should be a  
gift of land.

"This Codicil was signed published and declared by the testatrix her Grace (her Highness) the Duchess of Kingston in presence of us who in her presence and in the presence of each other have signed our names as witnesses attesting the same.

### **CLAUSE of REVOCATION**

A and B having behaved essentially ill to me, I revoke the legacies

cies which I gave them by my will and I give and transfer those legacies (or such as your Grace (your Highness) pleases to grant) to C and D.

On the back is written

# **MODEL of CODICIL.**

**N. B.** The whole of the gifts by codicil ought to be written in her Grace's (her Highness's) own hand and not by any other person and likewise the orders, such as those of her funeral, if it shall be her Grace's intention that they be inserted in the codicil, they ought to be so done with her own hand.

If



If her Grace (her Highness) shall make a specific legacy as of a ring breast-knot or any other of her personal effects, or of a sum of money, if it be written with her own hand there is no need of witnesses, if any other person writes the legacy her Grace will sign it and there must be two witnesses.

If she gives any land there must be three witnesses, and the attestation must be couched in the terms of the above model.

6th Piece Letter to Mr. John Chichester

SIR

IT is now several years since I had the honor to see you at the  
time

time of your voyage to Italy I was in hopes of having that pleasure again as being so near when you was at Calais Let me have the pleasure of seeing you at Calais if your affairs will permit or at Paris where I now am—Mr. Weriam whom I have seen at Paris has given me the most agreeable news of your health. Is your son alive? and in what part of the world? I should feel a great pleasure in meeting with him to shew all the regard due to him as your son. If you determine to do me the honor to come and see me at Calais, 'tis a long way be land and short by sea by making the Streights; if you make the journey

ney by land, I wish you would send for our cousins the sisters of the late John Chudleigh to Chalmington near Dorchester and speak to them there are two of them who live in that county in a small retreat, the second has inherited a legacy of 20,000l. left her by a relation she lives in tranquillity in that ancient family seat, where she takes a pleasure in educating the children of her deceased sister who married Haynes a clergyman to whom I have given benefices amounting to 6 or 700l. per annum, and who has since been married to a Miss Tempest who has had a brother dead lately— This event has caused a large inheritance to fall to the children of the

the second marriage; added to the desire of seeing you is that of speaking with you on family affairs as likewise with Mr. Pridaux, whom I don't know where to seek for.

**Sketch of the letter to the Pope\***

**Copy of the Translations made by Hainj Translator and Interpreter in execution of an ordinance of the 26th August last, by us collated on request as set forth in our ordinance of the 5th Sept. inst. and found conformable to the originals of the said tran-**

\* A most curious interlineation in a will! It is a pity that her Grace (her Highness) had not filled up this  
*" Sketch of a letter to his Holiness."*



relations at Paris in our Hotel this  
9th September 1788.

(Signed)

ANGRAND with PARAPHE.

The originals of the said testament  
codicils and their covers in the Eng-  
lish language after having been un-  
sealed by Monf. Denis Francois  
Angrand D'Alleray Knight Count de  
Maillis Lord of Bazoches Condé St.  
Libiere and other places Lord Patron  
of Vangizard les Paris King's Coun-  
sellors in his Councils Honorary in  
his Court of Parliament ancient Attor-  
ney General of his Majesty in his  
great Council Lieutenant Civil of the  
City Viscounty and Provostship of  
Paris and Counsellor of State in his  
Hotel, and a copy of the translation  
which

which was made thereof by the said Mr. Hainj King's Interpreter in the Hotel and by virtue of the ordinance of the said Lieutenant Civil the whole composing seven pieces with the translation of the English papers were committed by the said Lieutenant Civil to the said Mr. Rouen one of the King's Counsellors Notary at the Chatalet of Paris here undersigned according to the verbal process of the opening translation and commission of the said testament codicils the letters bearing date the commencement of the 26th of August 1788 the day of the death of the Duchefs of Kingston and closed the 9th of this present month of September—The said testament codicils and letters comptrolled and examined at Paris by Lezan this 13th of

of the said month of September  
of the said year 1788 all remaining  
in the possession of the said Mr. Rouen,  
Notary.

Sixteen words erased as null.

(L. S.)

ROUEN.

Sealed the day and  
year aforefaid

PAULIMUIE.

## EXPLANATION of the WILL.

THAT so incongruous a piece as the one now offered to the public, should ever have been executed in the present form, must appear matter of astonishment to every reader who considereth, that in France, as in England, there is an established usage, the conformity to which, can alone give validity to a testament. The surprize will cease, on an explanation of the facts.

Two professional English gentlemen were specially commissioned to repair to Paris, for the purpose of *taking the instructions* of the Duchess of Kingston, relative to the testamentary disposal of her property. The compliment allowed them was two hundred



dred pounds each. On their arrival at Paris, that which might have been done in one month, was prolonged to three, the business being occasionally, and by starts, entered into. As far as an English will would operate, the gentlemen were perfectly competent to the task assigned them; but, there was French usage to be considered; for, the Duchess had been denizenized as a Frenchwoman, by letters patent so recognizing her. Some assistance was therefore called in, and that not of the ablest kind. Such, however, as it was, the Duchess accepted it; and, the different directions given her Grace, as to the mode of her devising personal, or landed property, were laid down by the French advisers. That they were ignoble characters, is most evident, from the fulsome strain of compliment to which they have descended. To give a lady, who

who was merely a Duchefs *by curtesy* the title of "HIGHNESS," evinced a degradation of spirit, equal to any subservient crouching. The English assistants supplied, as before suggested, the outline of a will, conformable to English law. The blanks were left to be filled up, by the Duchefs, at a future period; and the several *initials* were so many helps to her memory. The concluding parts of this will, as it hath been called, are memorandums of something to be done, preparatory to the execution of a will in every respect legal; and, that such a will was in contemplation, is evident, from Mr. Beardsworth having been employed to attend the return of the Duchefs to Calais, where she was to have executed a regular testament. He did attend, in expectation of her arrival, until he received the advice of her death. Had she lived,

a French,

a French, a Russian, and an English will, would have been completed. Dying as she did, an *Anglo-Franco* testament appears, like a common place book, or the repository of reveries, to display her whimsicality to the world, under her proper signature.

F I N I S.

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